

TOWN TOPICS®

Princeton's Weekly Community Newspaper Since 1946



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Hospital Supporters, Out in Force, Urge State To Approve Relocation

Concern about potential negative public sentiment regarding the relocation prospects of the University Medical Center at Princeton was apparently assuaged last Wednesday, as the state's Health Planning Board heard high praise for the hospital, its parent, Princeton HealthCare System, and the relocation's potential benefits to health care throughout the region.

The board, mandating little more than three minutes per speaker, received mostly positive feedback at the John Witherspoon School auditorium as the PHCS sought approval for its Certificate of Need (CN) — the application that the state must approve in order for the hospital to relocate to a 158-acre tract in Plainsboro Township. Last month, the state deemed the hospital's CN complete, which allowed the formal review process to advance. Last Wednesday's hearing effectively represented the one venue where public comment could be submitted to the state; a second hearing, scheduled to take place in Lawrence on January 4, will allow health planning board members to question hospital administrators and other witnesses invited to deliver testimonials.

Following that, Dr. Fred Jacobs, commissioner of the state's Department of Health and Senior Services, will have 120 days to review the hospital's final application and decide on the feasibility of relocation. However, a decision is expected sooner rather than later.

The hospital system, which is seeking its CN only weeks after Capital Health System was granted one to build a 320-bed facility on Princess Road in nearby Lawrence Township, has largely moved forward with its relocation goals independent of Capital Health's aims. PHCS officials have maintained that differences in the two hospitals' service areas and demographics create a scenario where the two would not eclipse each other.

"Replacement and relocation is essential," said Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand, adding that a new facility would be the "only way to ensure the hospital's continued ability to address the health care needs it has traditionally served, and to provide contemporary clinical care and services over the long term."

Since announcing in January 2005 the intention to relocate both UMCP and the Merwick Care Center, and then

Continued on Page 5

Route 206 vs. Trucks Set for Round Two

A group of Princeton residents, along with elected and municipal officials from Princeton Borough and Township, have formed a task force that will examine recent regulations proposed by the state's Department of Transportation that would allow trucks larger than 102 inches wide to travel along both Route 206 and Route 27.

On Monday, the state placed a rule proposal in the New Jersey Register that would allow double-trailer truck combinations and 102-inch-wide standard trucks to travel on state roads that fall into the National Network or New Jersey Access Network classification. Route 206 has been listed as part of the National Network, and therein lies the problem, say municipal officials, as the move follows a recent state-funded study looking to calm traffic along Route 206 in the Borough and Township between Cherry Valley Road and Nassau Street.

"This obviously goes back on what we've done as a community as far as the Route 206 Vision Plan is concerned," said Township Committeeman Chad Goerner, who is also a member of the assigned task force. "Part of that plan was to lessen truck traffic and now we have these regulations that most likely would not lessen but would increase truck traffic."

The task force will use an available 60-day public comment period to put together a case for keeping 206 off the national network, and will likely use the Route 206 plan as testimonial in its case.

Last month, DOT Commissioner Kris Kolluri announced the new truck regulations as part of an effort to create a so-called hierarchy of roadways for large truck traffic. The rules mandate large trucks to stay within the confines of the national network with exceptions, including stops for food, fuel, rest, repairs, or to reach a terminal.

The new rules would reverse truck regulations set in 1999 that banned trucks of that size on particular roads, including Route 206. Those rules, however, were

deemed unconstitutional in a February 21 ruling handed down by a federal appeals court because they potentially impacted interstate commerce. As a result, the state proposed new regulations, whose potential impact on Princeton has set 206 advocates into high gear.

Mr. Goerner said that he, along with other members of the task force, are seeking to bring the engineering staffs of both the Borough and Township together, get information from local sidewalk and bikeway experts, and examine the historic nature of the Route 206 corridor throughout the 60-day public comment period, in order to submit a comprehensive report to DOT. Safety issues will also be addressed.

Continued on Page 12

Public Perception of Borough Police Still Needs Improvement, Council Says

Still feeling the repercussions of arrests made related to the potentially racially motivated beating of three Hispanic men, the Princeton Borough Police Department has maintained that it handled itself within the realm of protocol, and that a recent community meeting designed as a means of municipal outreach ended by showing the department in an unfair light. However, members of Princeton Borough

Council maintained last Tuesday that while the department followed standard procedure, the image of the department is in need of repair.

The department has been dealing with perception issues ever since officers entered Princeton High School September 20 to arrest four underage students who were thought to be involved with the

Continued on Page 15



CELEBRATING THE SEASON AND BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY AT RICHARDSON: The Princeton Symphony Orchestra, with Mark Laycock conducting, performed its annual Family Holiday Pops Concert with the Princeton High School choir at Richardson Auditorium last Friday. Since December 16 also happened to be Beethoven's birthday, a choral/symphonic rendition of "Happy Birthday" celebrated the occasion. The concert was underwritten by the Princeton branch of Fidelity Investments.

(Photo by George Vogel)

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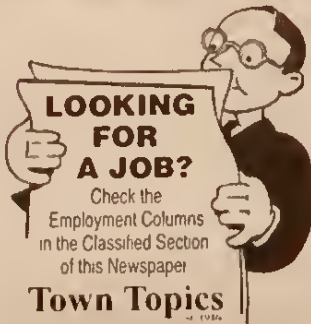
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Topics In Brief A Community Bulletin

The AARP, the Latin American Task Force of Princeton, and the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund are providing tax filing assistance with trained volunteers for residents from low and medium income households. The service will take place Saturdays, between February 3 and April 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Henry Pannell Learning Center at the corner of Clay and Witherspoon streets in Princeton Borough. Those interested in receiving tax assistance do not need an appointment, and the information provided will be kept confidential. By law, the IRS cannot share any information with other government services, including the immigration authorities. Volunteers are trained to complete only basic tax returns. Participants are encouraged to bring the following documents: W2 or 1099 forms from your employer or clients; last year's tax return; receipts or invoices for daycare services for any children under 13; and receipts for medicines, doctors, dentists, or any other health-related expenses (glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, etc.) for you or any of your family members. Se habla Español.

The Princeton Regional Scholarship Foundation (PRSF), which helps graduates of Princeton High School attend college, is accepting financial contributions in honor of teachers and staff at the high school. Donations with the name of the teacher or staff you are honoring can be sent to Princeton Regional Scholarship Foundation, c/o Princeton High School, 151 Moore Street, Princeton, NJ, 08540. An acknowledgment will be sent by PRSF.

Two Princeton University seniors, Joshua Goldsmith and Emily Stolzenberg, with backgrounds in foreign languages and cultures, have been named recipients of the 2007 Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Graduating Scholarship, one of the highest awards given to Princeton undergraduates. Mr. Goldsmith, who is studying historical linguistics and language acquisition, plans to use his award to pursue a one-year Master's in the teaching of French as a foreign language at the Université Marc Bloch in Strasbourg, France. Ms. Stolzenberg, a German major, will pursue a two-year Master's in political theory at Worcester College at Oxford.

In other Princeton University news, the school has offered admission to 597 students from a pool of 2,276 high school seniors who applied through early decision for the class of 2011. The number of early decision applicants increased by 40 this year. The admission office mailed notification letters to students December 14. The accepted early decision applicants are expected to make up 48 percent of the class of 2011, about the same percentage as for the three previous classes.

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OH, THE CHRISTMAS TREES AT MORVEN: Left: "Silhouette Christmas," by Gretchen Kristie Interiors takes center stage in the library at Morven Museum & Garden on Stockton Street, where the second annual Festival of Trees is in full swing. Right: Westminster Choir College's "Make a Joyful Noise" features portraits of conductors, as well as orchestral instruments, angels, and musical notes. The festival runs through January 7. For more information, call (609) 924-8144, ext. 106.

Second Festival of Trees Attracts Visitors to Morven Museum and Garden

For the second annual Festival of Trees at the Morven Museum and Garden, local businesses and garden groups have decorated 13 galleries on the first and second floors of the former

governor's mansion. Each room features a 7-foot high tree as well as table top trees, mantel, hearth, and window decorations.

The first tree that visitors encounter, in the west wing, is Cranbury Station Gallery's "The Most Wonderful Time,"

TOPICS Of the Town

decorated with scenes of Princeton by Kathleen Maguire Moraldo encased within clear glass globes. Original framed artwork by Ms. Moraldo is arranged around the foot of the tree.

In the morning room, "Textile Treasures" by the Amy Karyn Home Collection presents a subdued palette of teal and silver, which continues on the hearth and mantel with stars and reindeer, pillows and gift boxes. "The trees give you inspiration for your own tree," said Michelle Sheridan, the museum's program coordinator.

In the library, "Silhouette Christmas," by Gretchen Kristie Interiors takes center stage, sharing the room with a small tree by the Contemporary Garden Club that is decked out in tootsie rolls, gum-drops, candy canes, and lollipops.

In the parlor, "Princeton Pride," by Hamilton Jewellers is a sophisticated play on the University's orange and black tiger colors with striped candy canes and lollipops, tassels, stars, pine cones, balls, and garlands, topped with a giant orange bow.

Ten Thousand Villages from the Princeton Shopping Center has decorated a table top tree in the upstairs hall with ornaments from the store, including hummingbirds carved from tagua nut.

Though they look live, the trees are synthetic, but it's not obvious, so covered are they with ornaments. "Most people are tempted to touch to find out whether they are real or not," said Ms. Sheridan, who explained that the museum cannot use live

trees because of potential water and resin damage and fire hazard.

The most opulent of all the displays is by Kathy O'Hara and Barbra Pizonka of Tibbetts Interiors, who have gone to town in the study with their "Pretty as a Peacock" tree dripping with gold bows sequins, peacock feathers, and pearly beads. "Essence of Elegance," is topped

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Festival of Trees

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by a hatbox complete with 18th-century china dogs.

"A Nutcracker Suite" tree by Vicki Trainer of Merry Designs in the front east chamber is a favorite with younger children, said Ms. Sheridan. It is one of the few trees to sport multi-colored lights and is trimmed with green and red balls, gumdrops and walnut ornaments. The scene is completed by a giant nutcracker in the fireplace.

Among the smaller trees is one by Pins & Needles in red, white and green with bears and tiny hand knit sweaters; Ashton Whyte's "Curious George" tree; and "A Partridge in a Bear Tree" by the Princeton Doll Museum.

The smallest decorated space in the house is the trunk room on the second floor. It's all but filled by the Garden Club of Princeton's tree inspired by the Celtic roots of Morven's name. "A Scottish Tale" is decorated with tartan ribbons and bows, glass ornaments shaped like bagpipers, and surrounded by British biscuit tins and books on Scotland.

In the front west chamber, Christine Robb's birdhouse-themed tree is matched by "the Colors of Christmas," in the west wing by the Princeton Minis, a group that works in miniature. "They started painting these birdhouses last January to be ready for this year's festival," said Ms. Sheridan.

Westminster Choir College's "Make a Joyful Noise" has framed portraits of conductors, all of whom have had some connection with the college, as well as orchestral instruments, angels, and musical notes.

"A Winter Celebration" in the garden room showcases the Stony Brook Garden Center with feathered wreaths and a riot of doves and red-plumed birds with wings spread and sitting in their nests.

The Large House In Miniature

A model doll house, in the east wing chamber on the second floor, is a 40-inch high model, 1-inch-to-the-foot replica of a 19th-century house in Flemington. The 20-room, four-floor version is furnished with tiny furniture

and appliances with working parts and contents; paintings are reproduced in miniature; drawers and wardrobes open to reveal tiny clothes. Details include mousetraps in the kitchen, and felt Winnie the Pooh and friends, Eeyore, Piglet and Tigger, in the upstairs nursery. Decorated for the holidays, Santa's sleigh is on the roof and Santa himself can be seen — his boots at least — on his way down the chimney.

Gift Shop

In the gift shop, there are Morven playing cards, small boxes of hand-decorated sugar cubes made especially for the museum and enamel pins exclusive to Morven in the shape of a Christmas tree (\$8) as well as tree-shaped ornaments in enamel (\$12) and brass (\$10).

The Festival of Trees at Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton St., runs through January 7, Wednesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5, including parking. For more information, call Morven at (609) 924-8144, ext. 106.

— Linda Arntzenius

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The Problem

A surgeon falls, resulting in a permanent arm injury that prevents him from practicing his specialty. A radiologist has inoperable progressive cataracts and can no longer interpret imaging studies. A chiropractor cannot manipulate patients because of degenerative cervical disk disease. Like many high-income professionals, these men and women had the foresight to protect themselves by purchasing "occupation-specific" long-term disability insurance policies. These are all real claims denied by UNUM, Paul Revere, Equitable or Provident, which control nearly a third of all disability policies written in the U.S.

Insurance Company Tactics

The chiropractor experienced the typical modus operandi of the carrier: After paying the claim for a period, UNUM terminated benefits after it "subjected ... [the chiropractor] to a biased medical examination, then re-characterized her occupation as a business owner, rather than a chiropractor, and claimed she was not totally disabled [in her profession] because she could perform bookkeeping or teach a class or see two patients per hour" wrote a California judge in a strongly worded opinion upholding a large jury verdict against UNUM. Wrongful denial of claims made on occupation-specific long-term disability insurance policies is a widely reported nation-wide epidemic. One state levied a hefty fine because of it, stating that UNUM Provident has a corporate mentality of "looking for every technical legal way to avoid paying a claim." The campaign to deny legitimate claims continues because the cost of paying benefits on these types of policies is so high for insurers.

Be Proactive

If you own these policies, make it harder for insurers to deny your claim.

First, select your treating physicians wisely. Make sure they have excellent credentials and credibility in their specialties. It is more difficult for insurance companies to dismiss the opinion of a physician recognized as an area expert in the field.

Second, make sure your physicians fully document your condition. A favorite insurance company defense is that you made the claim because your policies pay you benefits equal to or more than you can earn by working. To rebut that defense, make sure there is clear evidence of the progression of your medical condition over time in your doctor's records. Review the completed

Physician's Statement forms carefully and ask your doctor to correct any misstatements before the forms are submitted to the insurance company. If there is anything on the form that appears equivocal or contradictory, the insurance company will use it to against you. Frequently the physician's staff members prepare these forms, sometimes resulting in inaccurate or misleading information — exactly what insurers look for.

Third, make sure your treating doctors are prepared to support your disability claim. Any treating doctor not willing to support your claim will be sought out and used against you.

Next, if the insurance company requires an Independent Medical Examination ("IME"), insist on a specialist in the specific area of your disability.

Finally, a tip for organizations in which the owners all have these kinds of policies: If the intent is that the policies be individually owned rather than employer-sponsored, make sure your actions are consistent with your intentions. Do not allow the employer to become involved with any issue concerning these policies because the insurance company will contend that the policies are employer-sponsored and therefore governed by ERISA, a statute which contains some standards favorable to insurance companies. Courts listen to insurance companies' ERISA arguments if the employer has involvement with the policies. This proactive approach will not guarantee success because insurance companies have legions of medical experts to support claim denials. However, this advice can help you short circuit some strategies used by insurers to delay and deny payment of your claim.

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Hospital Supporters

continued from page one

revealing in November 2005 that Plainsboro would be the final destination, PHCS officials have worked with both Princeton Borough and Township in rezoning the 12-acre hospital campus on Witherspoon Street for potential redevelopment. The site, which straddles the Borough-Township municipal boundary, will likely be used to for up to 280 residential units, with an affordable housing component, as well as commercial and office space. A municipal task force early last year concluded that the hospital, under its current master plan, would not be able to do a full expansion on site and would be better suited to relocate.

Ms. Marchand had termed an on-site expansion "totally unacceptable," saying that those in opposition could put regional health care in danger. "The way to get the best health care is to have a hospital built to current standards," she said.

But the hospital's relocation prospects raised concerns that some of the services, namely community outreach programming and a medical clinic serving uninsured and underinsured patients, would go with it. Last Tuesday, Princeton Borough Council entertained, but defeated, a resolution seeking assurances from Princeton HealthCare System, that transportation to a clinic would be supplied and that community outreach would continue (see story on Page 5). The hospital has said that transportation to the new fa-

cility would be provided and that outreach programming would continue as long as private funding remained available.

When the task force released its report last year, Borough Mayor Mildred Trotman issued a minority report along with Dr. Norman Sissman, Township vice chair of the Princeton Regional Board of Health, outlining a potential that a vacuum created for medical health care for poorer residents residing in the John-Witherspoon neighborhood. Stemming from those concerns, and amid continued pressure from the Board of Health, Ms. Trotman organized a second task force, this time addressing the feasibility of keeping a clinic on Witherspoon. That task force unanimously determined that maintaining a clinic in the Borough would be neither cost-effective nor medically sound.

Ms. Trotman acknowledged those findings in her address Wednesday, saying that the current hospital site would be "incapable" of accommodating future regional medical needs, and said that free, on-demand transportation would address the needs of clinic patients. Margaret Lancefield, medical director of the hospital's charity care clinic, refuted the assumption that the clinic would shun a portion of its patient base, adding that the service was "crucially important" to the hospital.

Addressing potential traffic problems related to new construction along Route 1, Ms. Trotman pointed to ongoing talks with the state in

an effort to improve the intersection of Harrison Street and Route 1. In August, municipal and elected officials from the region met with Department of Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri, looking to install a left-turn lane on Harrison Street onto Route 1 north. Mr. Kolluri, at the time, said his office would examine that proposal. Ms. Trotman also encouraged the construction of the planned Penns Neck Bypass, which would, among other significant traffic configurations, remove the traffic light at Harrison Street and Route 1 altogether. West Windsor Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, who called for a speedy bypass construction, labeling it as a "win-win for everybody," also backed Ms. Trotman's assertion.

Representatives of area transportation services also urged relocation approval, but said transportation services would be crucial as the hospital prepares to break ground for a new facility, still seen for a 2007 date. Richard Bergman, a Princeton Township resident who is also a co-founder and president of Community Without Walls, said hospital access, by way of ambulance, car, public transportation, or special services such as Crosstown 62, Mercer County TRADE, and ITN-Greater Mercer, should be outlined at an information center at the current Witherspoon site. "It is important that we focus on improving the ease of transportation," he said.

—Matthew Hersh

TOWN TOPICS CLASSIFIED
ads gets results

Borough Nixes 11th-Hour Measure Seeking Medical Center Guarantees

A proposed resolution seeking transportation and outreach programming assurances from the Princeton HealthCare System upon the relocation of its University Medical Center and Merwick Care Center to Plainsboro died in Council chambers last week following a sticky dialogue over both the resolution's policies, and a subsequent procedural debate.

The measure, proposed by Councilman Roger Martindell and strategically drafted ahead of a Wednesday hearing held by the state's health planning board, sought to hold the hospital to verbal promises that it would provide on-demand transportation to its planned facility in Plainsboro, namely, to the hospital's charity care clinic, and that it would continue to its community outreach and education programs.

But questions about the resolution's timing, and the fact that it was not on the published Council agenda, derailed the proceedings, compounded with the fact that Council, by a slim margin, decided that there was not enough discussion time to make the resolution relevant to Wednesday's hearing.

The hospital is in the process of seeking a Certificate of Need (CN) from the state to ratify its relocation attempts. The public hearing held Wednesday by the state health planning board was effectively the one opportunity for the public to address the board with opinions on the relocation. Mr. Martindell, who had sought to get

a resolution on the records, told Town Topics last week that while the community had heard assurances from the hospital over continued outreach and transportation, "we, as a governing body, have yet to make a statement."

"We want to show the state and our constituents that we are relying on these assurances," he said.

But Barry Rabner, president and CEO of Princeton HealthCare System, said that those services have been built in to the hospital's CN application, and that transportation would be provided. The outreach programming should continue, he said, provided that the private funding that supports those programs remains in place. "We've done everything we've ever committed to do," he said last week.

And while not all members of Council were openly opposed to the philosophies outlined in Mr. Martindell's resolution, some remained reserved, worrying that an official measure now, following findings provided by two task forces and several

public hearings on various facets of the hospital's proposed relocation, could confuse the process.

"I would hesitate to vote to pass a resolution which may, upon further reflection, reveal that it is somehow not in line with what's listed in the certificate of need," said Council President Peggy Karcher, who ultimately voted against introducing the resolution, which was turned down in a 4-2 vote, with Mr. Martindell and Councilman David Goldfarb voting in favor to introduce.

Mr. Martindell worried that this would be the last chance Council could send a message to the state. The following day, however, he did address the health planning board, making an argument for the policies outlined in the resolution, saying that the hospital should provide specific detail over transportation and programming.

—Matthew Hersh

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annual Christmas Eve Carol-
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24. Santa Claus, despite
obvious time constraints,
is expected to make an ap-
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Carolers are encouraged to
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**How do you feel about proposed changes in
benefits for public employees such as teachers?"**



"Long term changes are absolutely necessary. The state
can no longer afford to continue teachers' benefits at
the level it has in the past. Teachers and other public
employees have to move in line with what exists in
industry. Companies now do not have defined benefit
plans. They have the 401(k) and they do not provide
lifetime health care for their retired employees and
families. Teachers and other public employees should
have to make a contribution to these costs as well."

— Marcia Hendler, Ridgeview Circle



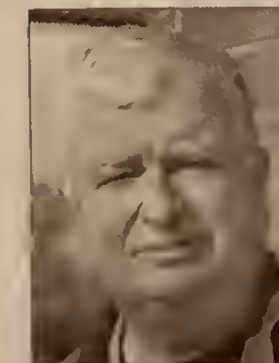
"I disagree with him reducing benefits for the police and
firemen. I am a teacher and my daughter is a principal. A
lot of the teachers at her school went down to the rally. It
is very difficult for teachers to make up for their medical
benefits."

— Bonnie Giacobbe, Witherspoon Street



"If I were a teacher I would be opposed to it. It sounds
reasonable that everyone in the state has to pitch in, but
some people should have to give up more than others
and it should not necessarily be the teachers. I have my
doubts as to how much education is really valued — it is
hard work being a teacher."

— Helge Deaton, Mershon Drive



"I think that teachers are generally underpaid so I am
very much in favor of paying people that teach our
children what they are worth. We need to take care of
our current teachers and attract the best to teach in our
schools."

— Alex Trent, Quarry Street



"New Jersey has painted itself into a corner and we all
have to feel some hurt and make some sacrifices."

— Wayne Grabowski, Elm Road

Patriots' Week Celebrates Trenton's Role in NJ History

Historical Interpreter Stacy Roth will present a program of 18th-century songs, quotations, poetry and prose exploring the private thoughts and popular images of women of the period on Tuesday, December 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Gallery 125, at 125 South Warren Street, in Trenton as part of the city's annual Patriots' Week celebration.

"The Distaff Muse: The Qualities of Women in the 18th Century" includes songs by and about women from folk, popular, and theatre traditions; songs that illustrate the struggles, triumphs and private thoughts of women, renowned and little known, with a special emphasis on the women of New Jersey. Ms. Roth sings and accompanies herself on guitar, penny whistle, and concertina.

"I've coupled songs with quotations and readings by both men and women from my collection, which is heavy on the humor side," said Ms. Roth, a former Princeton resident who worked in the department of rare books and manuscripts at Princeton University's Firestone Library in the 1980s. "I'm especially fond of the letter from a young woman, Eliza Lucas, whose father intended her to marry the man of his choice because she needed to be taken care of, in spite of the fact that she was successfully managing two plantations in South Carolina by the age of 17," said Ms. Roth who quotes Eliza's letter to her father stating that the riches

of Peru and Chile wouldn't make the "old gentleman" more attractive to her.

"A lot of people have the image of women of this time as submissive, but there were a lot of independent minded women as can be seen from their private letters as well as their actions in boycotting goods from Great Britain."

Co-director of History on the Hoof with business partner David Emerson — General Washington at the Old Barracks Museum — Ms. Roth has interpreted history for museums, libraries, schools, and festivals throughout the Delaware Valley. The author of *Past Into Present: Effective Techniques for First-Person Historical Interpretation* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998), she is a frequent speaker with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and holds a BA in History from Kean College, an MA in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania, and an MLS from Rutgers.

History of Tea

Besides "The Distaff Muse," Ms. Roth, a tea enthusiast, presents a history of the "cup that cheers," on Thursday, December 28, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., also in Gallery 125. The focus will be on the history of tea in the American colonies, presented in appropriate historical attire. This program includes a lecture/demonstration on the topic, related songs, quotations and poetry and, for guests, freshly brewed tea and sweets from

18th century recipes. Bring your own genteel teacup (not a mug), saucer, spoon and desert plate. Reservations are suggested for the event, limited to 35 people. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at www.patriotsweek.com or by calling 1-877-PAT-WEEK.

Ms. Roth's programs are just two in a weeklong series of more than 45 art, music, literature, and living history events celebrating Trenton's role at the time of the American War of Independence.

Patriots' Week Events

Patriots' Week features reenactments of the battles of Trenton and Princeton, celebratory period dinners, colonial beer tasting, and performances by Spiced Punch, the musical quartet of which Ms. Roth is a member, singing Colonial-era songs of love, war, and holiday cheer accompanied by guitar, fife, and penny whistle.

The week kicks off with a public reading of "The American Crisis," the essay by Thomas Paine that begins with the words: "These are the times that try men's souls," on Tuesday, December 26, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., in the Old Barracks Courtyard, Front and Barrack Streets. Written shortly before the Battle of Trenton, Paine's words helped rally Americans to the cause of the revolution.

Highlights of the rest of the week's activities include two performances of "The Music of Ben Franklin: The Glass Armonica in Concert," by the virtuoso of the instrument, Cecilia Brauer, on Tuesday, December 26, at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Old Barracks Officers' House. Ben Franklin is reputed to have invented the instrument — a series of glass bowls on a spindle, rotated by a fly wheel and foot pedal — after hearing a concert given on wine glasses in England. Reservations are recommended for the event, limited to 25 people. The \$30 admission includes Madeira, claret, and cheese. For tickets, call 1-877-PAT-WEEK.

On Friday, December 29, from 8 to 10 p.m., a lantern-lit Colonial Ball will take place in the Masonic Temple, Front and Barrack Streets. The ball will feature instruction in 18th-century dance by the Germantown Country Dancers, as well as period music, and dancing with callers, and reenactors in period dress.

In addition to singing and dancing, reenactments on the streets include the First Battle of Trenton on Saturday, December 30, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., beginning at the Battle Monument and proceeding down Warren Street to a final skirmish in Mill Hill Park. The troops will muster for battle beforehand at the Old Barracks Museum.

Later that day, the Second Battle of Trenton will take place from 3 to 4 p.m., beginning at the First Presbyterian Church, 120 East State Street, and continuing to Mill Hill Park.

That evening, Saturday, December 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Masonic Temple Grand Lodge, Lafayette and

Barrack Streets, the movie 1776 will be shown together with an audience sing-a-long led by Ms. Roth who will distribute lyric sheets.

William Trent House

The 1719 William Trent House Museum on Market Street and William Trent Place will be open during the week, Tuesday through Saturday, from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Scottish Immigrant William Trent, built this brick house as well as mills along the Assunpink Creek and laid out streets for the city that would become Trenton. His former mansion, now restored and furnished in accordance to his 1716 inventory, presents life as it was lived by household, including servants and slaves. Tours are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

For young visitors to the Trent House, there will be a Colonial kids program each day from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with 18th-century activities such as writing with a quill pen and making sweet bags. Children must be accompanied by an adult and reservations are required. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information and reservations, call (609) 989-3027.

Other children's events include a Battle of Trenton Puppet Show for ages 5 and above on Saturday, December 30, from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and again from 1:30 to 2 p.m., on the paved map of Trenton behind 20 West State Street, at the intersection of East Hanover Street and Hanover Place.

Also for children grouped into two ages 5-8 and 9-12, a hands-on Colonial Camp will

introduce colonial games, candle-making, clothes-making and soap-making with visits and readings by reenactors, Tuesday, 26 through Saturday, 30. Morning sessions run from 9 am to 1 pm. Afternoon sessions run from 1 to 5 p.m. at Artworks, 19 Everett Alley. Spaces are limited. Early registration is encouraged. To register, contact (609) 394-8018 or info@citysmiles.org.

A Patriots' Store, offering books, calendars and other

items related to the Revolutionary War and New Jersey History will be open during the week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at Lafayette and Barrack Streets.

Patriots' Week runs from Tuesday, December 26 through Sunday, December 31. For a complete schedule of events, call (877) 728-9335, or visit www.patriotsweek.com.

— Linda Arntzenius

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Township Authorizes Deer Management; Discusses Gypsy Moth Outbreak

Township Committee seeks to use a combination of sharpshooters and contractors to manage the deer herd in a three-square-mile section of the Township. The program received rare praise from Deputy Mayor Bernie Miller, who has, in the past, criticized the program with efficacy concerns. "It's been successful— not only has it reduced damage

to trees and shrubs in the parks and residences in the community, but road kill statistics have gone down," he said, with an estimated count hovering around 30, as opposed to recent years, when road-related deer kills could be found in the hundreds.

The Township will again use the Connecticut-based firm, White Buffalo, to conduct sharp shooting and birth control programs. White Buffalo has culled an estimated 1,400 deer since its first year with the township in the winter of 2000-01.

In other business, Township arborist Greg O'Neill delivered a presentation to Committee outlining a growing gypsy moth problem

throughout the Township. Gypsy moths are known to feed off the foliage of oaks and aspens, and can result in tree defoliation and mortality, Mr. O'Neill said, in outlining a phased aerial suppression program.

Borough Council recently tabled a discussion that would examine a gypsy moth outbreak in Marquand Park, near the Borough/Township municipal border. Mr. O'Neill said he would reach out to the Borough as the Township continues to explore potential solutions.

As outlined in Mr. O'Neill's presentation, an aerial suppression program would consist of two spray sessions, the first costing approximately \$32,000, and the second costing just over \$30,000, with an estimated \$1,500 to finance public notification. Mr. O'Neill said that while state funding had been available in the

past, it was unlikely that the state would shoulder any of the cost burden, leaving the \$64,000 total largely shouldered by the Township.

Township Committeeman Chad Goerner said he would have a "hard time" supporting the program in the future without the Borough's involvement. "It's an expensive program, and there's no guarantee we will be receiving federal aid for this," he said.

The impetus for the moth

program stemmed from the Township's Shade Tree Commission, which began discussing potential solutions in August.

—Matthew Hersh



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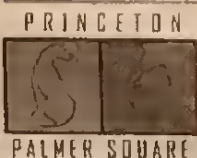


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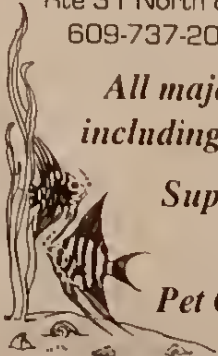
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Washington Crossing River, Again, For Christmas Day Reenactment

For over 50 years General George Washington (or at least someone dressed as the general) and troops of the Revolutionary Army have climbed into Durham boats and crossed the Delaware River just as they did on a dark December 25 evening in 1776.

This year, the 54th annual celebration of the event that is reputed to have turned the tide in the affairs of the patriots fighting for independence against colonial rule will take place again, weather conditions permitting.

Starting at around 1 p.m., actors in period costume will set out from the McConkey's Ferry section of the Washington Crossing Historic Park on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River.

This year the general will be played by New Hope resident Robert Gerenser, who is optimistic that the weather will be mild enough to permit the crossing, as on the two prior occasions he played the general in 1997 and 1999. It's customary for actors playing the part to relinquish the role after a successful river crossing. "This is an overwhelmingly powerful experience," said Mr. Gerenser. This year, he expects about 120 to 130 soldiers to participate, making it a bigger event than in previous years.

A founder of Coryell's Ferry Militia, Mr. Gerenser has been a historic reenactor since the early 1980s. The Christmas day event has become a family tradition. Mr. Gerenser's son, Robert Jr., played the general's ensign in 1997 and 1999; this year his 15-year old daughter Kiersten will serve in the role in a newly-made custom uniform. "Because of Kiersten's age, we had to get special permission for her to play the part from the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, but the age is reasonably accurate since the role is comparable to that of a midshipman in the Royal Navy," said Mr. Gerenser.

On December 25, 1776, General George Washington and a small army of 2400 men crossed the Delaware at the same spot in Bucks County, on their way to attack some 1500 Hessian soldiers garrisoned in Trenton.

The American force was ferried across the river by fishermen from Marblehead led by Colonel John Glover. They gathered in the early hours of the morning for the march on Trenton, about 10 miles downstream. The unexpected attack resulted in the surrender of the Hessian force within an hour and a half and the success gave the Patriots new hope after earlier failed efforts to keep the British from occupying New York City.

Painted Crossing

As recreated, the crossing may have more in common with the original than the famous 1851 Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze painting. For unlike Leutze's rendering, the real event took place in the dark and not in rowed boats of the sort the artist depicted. The crossing began in the late afternoon, after the sun had set, with candle-lit lanterns providing little light.

According to letters and diary accounts, the weather was bleak; rain had turned to sleet and snow, and the conditions were disheartening. The river is believed to have been in flood at the time, and the crossing was a dangerous undertaking.

The German-born Leutze knew little of the Delaware, where ice usually forms in sheets rather than the craggy bergs he has painted. According to a discussion of the painting on the Washington Crossing State Park website, Leutze's ice was probably inspired by wintry conditions on the Rhine.

As for the general's heroic pose, in reality, as in the annual reenactments, Washington would have been standing among troops, inside the high-sided Durham boats of the period, which have been

replicated and, when not being used for reenactments, can be viewed at the Washington Crossing Historic Park.

Designed for transporting iron ore and other cargo, Durham boats had no seats and the sides came well above the waist of someone of average height. They had wide planks on the sides of the boats where men with long poles could stand.

A replica of the painting is displayed in the auditorium of Washington Crossing Historic Park in Washington Crossing, Pa. (closed on Christmas Day). The original oil on canvas — impressively sized at 12ft. 5in. x 21ft. 3in. — is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Leutze's painting has become an oft-reproduced icon of heroism, part of the lore of revolutionary bravery and ingenuity in the face of defeat. Much less famous is the painter himself, an itinerant artist in the United States before returning to Germany to study at the Royal Düsseldorf Academy.

For further discussion of the authenticity of the painting, including the likeness of Washington (who was about 44 at the time), the flag, and the personnel depicted within the boat, visit the Washington Crossing website.

Washington Crossing Historic Park is located at 1112 River Rd., in Washington Crossing. The site, which has been designated a National Historic Landmark, features the assembly area, landing area, and 13 historic buildings including the McConkey Ferry Inn, the Thompson-Neely House and the 19th-century Village of Taylorsville. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The buildings are not open on December 25. For more information, call (215) 493-4076, or visit www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing.

—Linda Arntzenius



DURHAM BOATS SETTING OUT FOR NEW JERSEY: Each year, reenactors recreate the Christmas Day crossing of the Revolutionary Army led by General George Washington as it made its way to Trenton for a surprise attack on the British garrison there. This year the free event will begin in the McConkey Ferry Inn Section of Washington Crossing Historic Park on the Pennsylvania side of the river around 1 p.m. For more information, call (215) 493-4076. (Courtesy of Washington Crossing Historic Park)

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O.D. plans her path to a private practice

Throughout school and after her 1994 graduation from New England College of Optometry, **Mary E. Boname, O.D., F.A.A.O.**, was hoping she'd be able to go into private practice for herself. Like many O.D.s, she wasn't able to go immediately after graduation. But she kept her eyes on the goal, and along the way, picked up practice strategies and experience that helped shape her vision.

In December 1997, she was able to open Montgomery Eye Care in Skillman, NJ, a practice she and her husband, **Ben Fazlo**, a licensed dispensing optician, created together. Reminiscent of Norman Rockwell's America, the practice features sepia-toned early 20th century photos of her family and other small-town touches.

It's not just the look that evokes an earlier era. She took to heart the mentoring of her grandfather, the sole physician in her hometown for more than 60 years. His medical practice served as her blueprint. Short of making house calls, she's accessible, with evening and Saturday hours. And she takes her time with patients, a throwback to an earlier era. "I do all the testing myself; I like to spend half an hour with each patient," she says. Between limited participation in insurance plans and a high-end dispensary, it's a profitable model.

Dr. Boname decided that if she provided high-quality care, her patients would stick with her even if they had to pay out of their own pockets. Her decision paid off. "My patients tell me they prefer seeing only me during their eye examination." She reports a patient base of 8,500 patients, an impressive number for a town with less than 6,000 residents in a county of about 23,000.

Personal attention is also applied in her optical dispensary. "When patients are investing \$1,000 or more on glasses, they should be flawlessly fabricated and service of that eyewear should be available to them free of charge as frequently as they desire," she says.

Dr. Boname's early work experience as an associate prepared her for this career move. "I worked for two optometric physicians with two offices immediately after graduation. I spent the majority of my time in one particular office, and this really gave me a taste of the satisfaction of private optometric practice."

When she decided to go on her own, Dr. Boname made it a point not to solicit any patients from her previous employers. "I believe in the Golden Rule. Treat people the way you want to be treated, and you will never have any ethical dilemmas." That rule applies to patients as well as employees, she says. "Sound patient employees are critical."

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Police Blotter

Princeton Borough

Rebecca A. Goode, 56, of West Windsor, was arrested Thursday afternoon for active warrants out of Princeton Borough and Trenton Municipal Courts. Ms. Goode, who was placed under arrest following a pedestrian stop on Nassau Street, was brought to police headquarters, processed, and then released.

Borough Police arrested Karl J. Thomas, 53, of Trenton, at 1:45 p.m. Thursday after it was found that he had active warrants out of Trenton Municipal Court following a motor vehicle stop on Palmer Square West. Mr. Thomas was placed under arrest, brought to Borough Police headquarters, processed, and released on \$410 bail.

Police arrested three individuals Thursday just before midnight for active warrants out of multiple jurisdictions following a motor vehicle stop on Witherspoon Street. The three, Jodi M. Packan, 21, of Old Bridge, Okar Duncan, 26, of Willingboro, and Lovell Williams, 23, of Plainsboro, were placed under arrest, brought to Borough Police headquarters, processed, and then released on bail.

Julian Alister Rosse, 22, of Ewing, and Austin A. Roud, 27, of Lambertville, were arrested Friday just after 11 p.m. for possession of marijuana in the Tutane Street parking lot. Both Mr. Rosse and Mr. Roud were arrested and taken to Borough Police headquarters, where they were charged with possession of a controlled substance. They were subsequently released.

Princeton Township

Last Wednesday, just after 4:30 p.m., Township Police were dispatched to the scene of a three-car motor vehicle accident near the intersection of Rosedale and Province Line roads. While the details and cause of the accident are still under investigation, police reported that Robert Piel, 17, of Lambertville, driving a 2005 Honda CRV, and his passenger, Vivian Piel; Primina Evans, 62, of Princeton Township, driving a 2002 Saturn SL2, and her passenger Catherine Brown; and Sara Rowland Corson, 61, of Mercerville, driving a 1998 Buick Riviera, were involved in the accident. The Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad transported Ms. Evans, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Rowland Corson to the University Medical Center at Princeton. Rosedale Road was closed for one hour.

Township Police were dispatched to Quaker Road last Wednesday, at 5:20 p.m., to investigate a motor vehicle accident where Dina Laresch, 38, of Princeton Junction, lost control of her 2001 Toyota Prius and struck a tree. Ms. Laresch

was uninjured and her car was towed.

Police were sent to the intersection of Mt. Lucas and Terhune roads last Thursday afternoon to investigate a motor vehicle accident where Marilyn Kulik, 54, of Princeton Township, was driving her 2004 Subaru Outback and was struck by a 2006 Chevrolet Impala, driven by Tonia Alexander, 36, of Bakersfield, Calif. after Ms. Alexander drove her car into the intersection. No injuries were reported. Ms. Alexander's car was towed, and she was issued a summons for failure to stop and yield at a stop sign.

Last Thursday afternoon, Township Police were sent to Washington Road near Faculty Road, to investigate a motor vehicle accident where Joseph Vocaturo, 46, of Hamilton Square, reported that he had stopped his 2003 Chevrolet Impala at a crosswalk where he was struck by a 2003 Volkswagen Passat, driving by Louise Gengler, 53, of Princeton Borough. There were no injuries reported and Ms. Gengler was issued a summons for careless driving.

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Exploring Local Wetlands With Friends for the Marsh

Five canoes and 15 kayaks set out from the Bordentown Beach last Saturday, December 16, to explore the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh from the point where Crosswicks Creek meets the Delaware River to the John A. Roebling Memorial Park some four miles upstream.

A group of around 30 paddlers showed up for the trip led by George and Leona Fluck of the Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ). The Flucks have been organizing trips like this one for a decade, most of them in the Pine Barrens, on the Batsto, Mullica, and Wading rivers, but also further afield, including a moonlight paddle of the marsh in August.

"This is a typical turnout for this popular trip," commented Ms. Fluck. "We're working on opening up Crosswicks Creek from Bordentown to New Egypt, some 26 miles. Access to the river in Anchor Thread Park in Grovetown (Hamilton Township) will allow us to go further in this direction."

Having gathered at 9:30 a.m., the group was on the water by 10:15 a.m. But before we set out with the rising tide, Mr. Fluck introduced some protocol, mainly for the benefit of the five newcomers. Most of the group — members of the Friends for the Marsh and the Outdoor Club of South Jersey — were experienced paddlers. All had brought their own canoes and kayaks as there are no boat rentals in the marsh.

The first practice to note, according to Mr. Fluck, was that three blows on the whistle indicated a call for help. Even though it was an unusually mild day for the time of year, the 5 to 10 mph winds out of the west would be against us for most of the time out with crosswinds at the bend, he told us. For the 8-mile trip, as with all OCSJ outings, there would be a lead boat and an end boat.

Our route would take us from Crosswicks Creek to Watson Creek past the Bordentown Bluffs and the high banks where Joseph Bonaparte, brother to Napoleon, had built his New Jersey estate. As we

paddled along, a history enthusiast among the group described seeing wrecked hulls dating from the War of Independence and still visible at low tide in the flats along one of the many unnamed tidal channels that meander through the marsh and swampland. Patriots hid their boats from the British navy there. After sailing up the Delaware in pursuit and finding nothing, the British seamen had launched longboats to maneuver into the marsh to find the patriots' boats and burn them to the waterline.

The marsh is an area rich in Colonial and earlier history. Native Americans lived on the natural riches of the marsh fish and plants. On Saturday, we paddled beside cattail, teasel, rush, and 12-foot high marsh grasses, including wild rice. "In September, the red shouldered blackbirds gather to feast on the seeds," said Ms. Fluck. Earlier in the year, the marsh is a riot with spectacular displays of marigolds and purple-stemmed asters.

We saw few flowers or birds on Saturday — several red-tailed hawks wheeled above the cliff-tops, a white heron fished in the shallows, and there were mallards and the ubiquitous geese. Someone said they'd spotted a kingfisher but given the time of year, there were few of the marsh's over 200 bird species to be spotted. According to the D&R Greenway Land Trust, the marsh supports more than 850 recorded species of plants, 28 species of butterflies, 60 species of fish, 19 species of amphibians and reptiles, 237 species of resident or migratory birds, and 17 species of mammals. The Flucks reported frequent bald eagle and osprey sightings.

Interestingly enough, no ducks were seen until we reached a section of the marsh where a sign designated the area as a wildlife safety zone with no hunting allowed. Did the birds know they were safe, perhaps? December is hunting season and several hunters in camouflaged boats had taken to the water as the paddlers left Bordentown Beach. Asked

about safety, Ms. Fluck reported confidently that the hunters were generally very respectful of paddlers, who generally know where the blinds are hidden.

Passing under the multiple on-ramps at an intersection of I-195 and I-295, our flotilla maneuvered between the pylons where cliff swallows build their mud nests in early summer.

As a train on the light rail service between Camden and Trenton passed, we were saluted by a friendly whistle from the driver. There's a station at Bordentown and it has been known for paddlers to bike to the station, stow their bikes, and then take to the river.

The tidal waters coming up the Delaware River raise and lower the water level in the marsh six to eight feet twice daily. At or near the full tide, there's plenty of water for recreation. At low tide, the channels narrow and much of the marsh becomes exposed mud flats. So anyone planning a trip must be sure to check the tides.

Although the tide causes the water to rise and fall, just as at the Jersey Shore, the water is fresh. The salt water line on the Delaware River is south of this point, closer to Philadelphia. At this time of year the change in water level in the marsh is about seven feet.

By noon we had arrived at the lunch spot at the John A. Roebling Memorial Park where we stopped to rest and wait for the tide to turn. It had been tough going against the wind. At one point the leaders helped us out by exchanging our canoe paddle for a kayak paddle, which improved our pace. Quite a few canoeists were using double-bladed kayak paddles in the rear.

While we waited for the change in the tide, the group's leaders, who had parked a vehicle in the park, unpacked a barbeque and set to work preparing hot dogs and veggie burgers. Having refueled there was still time for a hike to Spring Lake with its resident pair of swans. Swans are pretty territorial so there were no Canada geese to be seen on this small lake within sight of the Duck Island power station. We took the circular trail around the lake. The



MARSH LORE ON THE WATER: Dressed for the season in a Santa hat, George Fluck (standing right), speaks to a group of paddlers in canoes and kayaks at a rest stop during an excursion on the Hamilton/Trenton/Bordentown Marsh. Mr. Fluck and his wife Leona Fluck, members of the Outdoor Club of South Jersey, led the trip for the Friends for the Marsh on Saturday, December 16, from the mouth of Crosswicks Creek at Bordentown Beach to the John A. Roebling Memorial Park and back.

(Photo by Leona Fluck)

wind had dropped, giving the sun a chance to warm us as we walked and chatted.

"It's hard to believe we're only five minutes from Trenton," commented Kathy Westbrook as we walked along the soft path. An enthusiastic kayaker and wild life preservationist, Ms. Westbrook lives in Pennsylvania and is a social worker in Trenton. "There is so much natural beauty outside our own back door but we don't often recognize it."

Ms. Westbrook is a paddler who regularly participates in trips led by the Flucks. She was one of two individuals commended by the group on Saturday for her efforts in cleaning up the marsh.

Back at Roebling Park, the group was joined by Trenton resident Marianne Marquandt out walking her dog. Ms. Marquandt has also been doing her bit to clean up the marsh, albeit anonymously. Her volunteer efforts had not gone unnoticed by the Flucks and other paddlers, though, and the serendipitous meeting provided an opportunity for them to thank Ms. Marquandt. "We'd noticed

the great job someone was doing," said Ms. Fluck. "It's nice to know who that person is and to express our appreciation; there are some very nice people out there."

Friends for the Marsh

The 1,250-acre area of the Hamilton/Trenton/Bordentown Marsh is the northernmost tidal and freshwater wetland on the Delaware River. Located on an ancient meander of the river, the marsh links greenways along Watson Creek, Crosswicks Creek, the D&R Canal, and the Delaware River. The area includes several parks including Roebling, North Community Park and the D&R Canal State Park.

About 1,200 species of plants and animals — some rare in New Jersey such as the map Turtle and the Northern brown snake — have been identified in the varied tidal and non-tidal habitats, of river, lake, tidal channel, temporary pool, and beaver pond.

For more information about the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, including a listing of tide times for Bordentown Beach, visit

www.marsh-friends.org.

Outdoor Club of South Jersey

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, OCSJ is the largest canoeing/kayaking club in New Jersey with over 300 water events each year in addition to other outdoor activities such as bicycling, hiking, and camping. The club's "leave no trace" policy encourages its over 2200 members to "take only photographs, and leave only footprints."

While the club's home base is the Pine Barrens, destinations for trips have ranged as far as New Hampshire and Georgia. In December, members of the group walked at Pointe Breeze, the site of Joseph Bonaparte's home in Bordentown, and paddled the Wading River, Cedar Creek, and the North branch of the Rancocas.

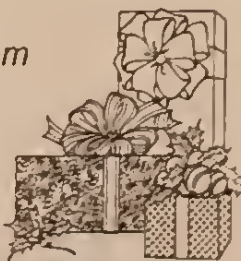
On Thursday, December 21, the Flucks will lead a Winter Solstice paddle on the Wading River and will kick off the New Year with a ritual January 1 Oswego Paddle. For more information, visit www.ocsj.org.

— Linda Arntzeius

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"WELL DONE!": That's Sir Paul McCartney in the foreground, taking a break to cheer on the members of The American Boychoir of Princeton in the background, on November 14 at Carnegie Hall. The boys had been invited by Sir Paul to perform the North American premiere of his choral and orchestral composition in four movements, "Ecce Cor Meum" ("Behold My Heart").

Route 206

continued from page one

Roadway logistics, from an engineering standpoint, will also be discussed. "Obviously the intersection of Route 206 and Nassau Street is going to be a big issue," Mr. Goerner said.

Following the appeals court's decision to reverse the former regulations, DOT initiated an outreach effort with the aim of developing an alternative truck routing system that would meet the requirements found in the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. As a result, a Truck Task Force was chaired by Mr. Kolluri, and included representatives from the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Association of Counties, the North Jersey Planning Authority, the New Jersey State Police, and the New Jersey Motor Truck Association.

In 2000, the American Trucking Association and the Tennessee-based U.S. Xpress challenged the former regulations that restricted interstate through trucks wider than 96 inches to the national highway network. Those regulations sought to require interstate trucks with neither an origin nor a destination in New Jersey to stay on the National Network when traveling through the state while permitting trucks with origins or destinations within the state unlimited use of both the National Network and the New Jersey Access Network.

—Matthew Hersh

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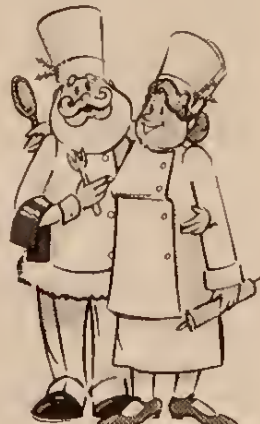
Hopewell Public Library

Black Bean and Vegetable Wrap*

Jenni Spencer, director of the Hopewell Public Library, first tasted these hearty wraps when Linda Wood brought them to a Potluck Party for the volunteers at the Hopewell Library. She said they were snatched up and gobbled down in a hurry. These tasty wraps are the perfect quick and healthful dinner for the hectic holiday season—which is also a good time of year to take a moment to remember the huge contribution that public libraries and library volunteers make to the quality of life in our communities.

Serves 4

- 1½ tbs olive oil
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 cup diced yellow bell pepper
- 1 cup ½-inch cubes zucchini
- 1 cup ½-inch cubes peeled butternut squash
- 1 cup chopped red onion
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 15-oz can black beans, drained
- 1 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 package burrito-size flour tortillas
- 4 tbs chopped fresh cilantro
- Salsa, to top
- Sour cream, to top



Heat olive oil in a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add garlic and stir for 30 seconds. Add bell peppers, zucchini, butternut squash, and onion and sauté until crisp-tender, about 8 minutes. Mix in cumin and continue to sauté until vegetables are tender, about 2 minutes longer. Season with salt and pepper.

Place beans in a large bowl; mash coarsely with a fork. Mix in vegetables and cheese.

Place tortillas on a work surface. Spoon a line of filling down the center of each and sprinkle with cilantro. Roll up tortillas, enclosing the filling. Arrange wraps, seam side down, on a baking sheet. (This dish can be made 1 hour ahead of baking and left to sit at room temperature.)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cover wraps with foil. Bake until filling is heated through, about 10 minutes. Cut each wrap into 2 or 3 sections. Serve with salsa and sour cream and a fresh green salad.

*This recipe ran last week and was mistakenly attributed to the wrong sponsor. This week it has been correctly attributed to Whole Earth Center.

More to come... Watch this space weekly for Princeton's favorite recipes... Provided by Robin Broomer, Town Topics

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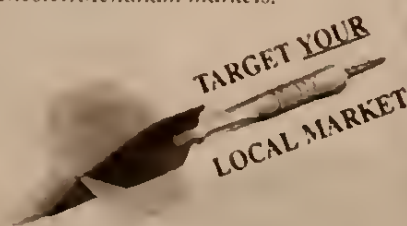
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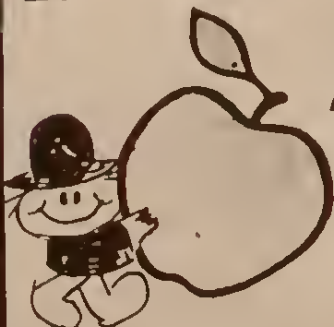
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Down the Dark Road With Bob Dylan and Cormac McCarthy

If you were to measure life in these embattled states since January 2001 according to a reverse trickle-down theory of poverty of mind and spirit, you might start by mentioning the tabloid trash that's overwhelming network and cable TV. Except that two of television's greatest accomplishments, *Deedwood* and *The Sopranos*, have blossomed on this side of the millennium, thanks to HBO. This may not be a golden age, but here and now in 2006, only months apart, Bob Dylan and Cormac McCarthy, two American masters, have produced work for the ages.

Modern Times, Dylan's newest album, which I wrote about here some months ago, is worthy of a place near the summit of American music or American art in our time or any time. The last three songs are devastating: you go from the relentless drum-beat of doom in "Nettie Moore" to the relentless urgency of "The Levee's Gonna Break" to the grim, relentless brilliance of "Ain't Talkin'," which takes you down the "long and lonesome road" that burns its way through the heart of this dark time (a long way from Kerouac's road, or even Desolation Row or Highway 61) to "the last outback at the world's end."

Dylan has written some masterful songs since "All Along the Watchtower," but "Ain't Talkin'" is a masterpiece. The mastery is not just in the suggestiveness of the lyrics and singing and playing, but in the way the song is framed, beginning and ending with a formal majesty that both enacts and recognizes its significance as a work of art; not to mention the subtly haunting accompaniment, again relentless and yet beautifully understated, and then the concluding, purely musical flourish on the other side of the world's end: instead of hellfire, a sunrise.

Now along comes Cormac McCarthy's new novel *The Road* (Knopf \$24), which leads us in the same direction, to that outback at the world's end. Listen to Dylan singing about how there "ain't no altars" on this road and of "walkin' through the cities of the plague," and you might think he and McCarthy were working side by side or else present at the same séance. Maybe Dylan's never read *Blood Meridian* or *The Crossing*, and maybe McCarthy never listened to Dylan, but one of several things both Modern Times and *The Road* have in common is in the way their pared-down balancing of mystery with simplicity contrasts to their previous work. It's as if both men, both past middle age, realize that time is running out not only for them as artists but for the country and the planet.

What's a Masterpiece?

The publisher's jacket copy says that *The Road* is "destined to become Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece." Odd phrasing. What they mean is that it will eventually come to be seen in those terms. But there's no "destined" about it. It either is or it isn't.

"Masterpiece" is such a tempting superlative. There's a kind of reflected glory in applying it, but if any work of fiction written in the past year deserves to be described in those terms, it's *The Road*. "Ain't Talkin'" has the advantage of being a short, dense composition brilliantly played, arranged, and sung while *The Road* is 246 pages long and naturally takes more chances, which makes it more likely to go off the tracks (as it occasionally does with images like that of corpses in their burned-out cars, "ten thousand dreams ensepulchred within their crozzled hearts").

The only recent novel I've read that comes close to *The Road* is the second volume in McCarthy's Border Trilogy, *The Crossing*. My experience with that novel was so harrowing and so memorable that I still find it hard to believe that 12 years have passed since the publisher assigned it to me to proofread and told me I had only a weekend to do it in. Surely it's a tribute to McCarthy that though I had been given the book as a task, to be read coldly and objectively, I was living in it, caught up in it to the extent that whenever I ventured into the real world that weekend, I found myself obsessively describing it to people like a poor man's Ancient Mariner. But *The Road* is a book I think both Hemingway and Faulkner would have admired. Both authors have been cited so often in response to McCarthy, and their influence is so obvious, it almost doesn't bear repeating, but it's important to mention that in the course of focusing the narrative to maximum intensity, McCarthy has screened out much

of the Faulkneresque rhetoric that distinguished — and for some readers, occasionally marred — *The Crossing* and some of his other work. If anyone's walking with McCarthy in this book, it's Hemingway, although that association doesn't really survive *The Road*'s attraction to adjectives, its gift for metaphor, and its sudden bursts of eloquence.

The mission the author has set himself — to bring off the nightmarish journey of a father and his young son through a post-nuclear wasteland without descending to cliché or warmed-over science fiction — is one I doubt even the most fearless of his contemporaries in poetry or in fiction would be capable of, let alone willing to take on. The menace in Dylan's "Ain't Talkin'" is subtle, or, as he calls the world he's walking through, "mysterious and vague." In *The Road* the menace the father and son are struggling through is palpable and omnipresent; the world is nothing but menace; it's a corpse with occasional human beings crawling around in it like maggots. The father tells the son that they're "the good guys," but the "bad guys" are in the majority.

The presence of the boy makes all the difference. In a sense, he not only keeps his father going, giving him his only reason for living, he keeps McCarthy from diving too often off the rhetorical deep-end. One of the many simple wonders of the novel is that in spite of the apocalyptic trappings, the demands of the situation resemble exaggerated versions of the struggles known to any caring parent who has experienced a version of the father's passionate protectiveness, his nurturing, his willingness to sacrifice himself time and again for the sake of the child. The horrors of the dead world illuminate the beauty of the father's devotion. And what lifts the book into the realm of masterpieces is our gradual realization that the nameless son is nothing less than the nameless father's

soul. Otherwise the man would have shot himself or continued along in the darkness with nothing but a few fragments of memory to light the way, to remind him that he ever possessed such a thing as a soul. The boy is absolutely pure; in the world of death and evil he's been born into, he's a miracle. He's devoid of hatred; even justified violence sickens him. His heartsick fear of neglecting or doing harm to other human beings, even those who may pose a mortal threat, is touching, and sometimes, for the father, a problem in itself. The only rifts in their loving relationship come when the son recoils in horror at some necessarily violent action taken by the father. Even when the man simply, wisely, for the sake of their survival, chooses to ignore some doomed, suffering creature, the son suffers, his heart torn. He can't conceive of doing harm to or refusing to come to the aid of another living creature.

McCarthy makes brilliant use of the boy throughout the narrative. He also inspires some of the more characteristic McCarthy rhetoric as when he plays a flute and "The man thought he seemed some sad and solitary changeling child announcing the arrival of a traveling spectacle in shire and village who does not know that behind him the players have all been carried off by wolves."

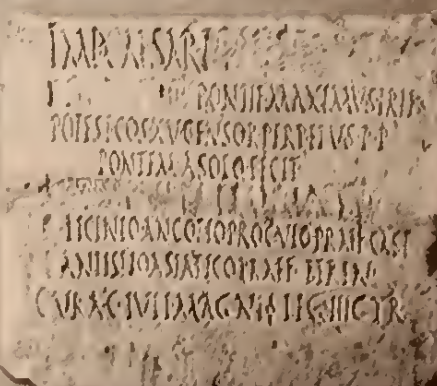
In another passage the man sees the world "shrinking down about a core of parsible entities." That's vintage Cormac McCarthy. But then, like Dylan, he starts simplifying: "The names of things slowly following those things into oblivion. Colors. The names of birds. Things to eat. Finally the names of things one believed to be true."

The Road describes or insinuates its own ambitions any number of times, as when McCarthy merges his ruin-redeeming vision with the dying father's: "Look around you, he said. There's no prophet in the earth's long chronicle who's not honored here today. Whatever form you spoke of you were right." Or a short time earlier when he imagines that "Perhaps in the world's destruction it would be possible at last to see how it was made. Oceans, mountains. The ponderous countesspectacle of things ceasing to be. The sweeping waste, hydroptic and coldly secular. The silence."

Dylan's sinister enigma ends with a touch of beauty in "Ain't Talkin'." And at the end of *The Road*, the boy is gathered into the arms of a woman speaking of God and the last word is "mystery."

—Stuart Mitchner

THE ART OF FORGETTING



Disgrace & Oblivion
in Roman
Political
Culture

HARRIET I. FLOWER

'The Art of Forgetting' Published This Month

Princeton Associate Professor of Classics Harriet I. Flower has just published *The Art of Forgetting: Disgrace & Oblivion in Roman Political Culture*, which is part of the series, "Studies in the History of Greece & Rome," being published by The University of North Carolina Press.

Ms. Flower is the author of *Ancestor Masks and Aristocratic Power in Roman Culture* and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic*.

Scholars in the field have called the new book "outstanding...a major advance in scholarship" that "will be valued above all for its insight into the way this particular commemorative behavior was deployed variously in political image-making at different periods."

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Animal Shelter Planning Euthanization Criticized by 14-Year SAVE Volunteer

To The Editor:

As a youngster growing up in Princeton I was privileged to know Dr. Cornelia Jaynes whose veterinary practice was on the site SAVE now occupies. She was a no-nonsense, special person who felt deep compassion for those animals needing medical treatment or emotional support. Together with a colleague she founded SAVE as a shelter, a true shelter. Their legacy has been corrupted beyond recognition.

I have been a volunteer at SAVE for nearly 14 years during which time I have seen that legacy erode to a point where I am sorely tempted to stop volunteering as a protest against the killing of two, perhaps four, dogs including one who came and licked my hand a few days ago. A dog was mentioned in your article (Town Topics, December 13) as having bitten a child and was therefore assumed to have been tormented or abused by children and was deemed unadoptable. Excuse me, but couldn't he go to a home without children? Shouldn't we ask who is evaluating these dogs?

I know any arguments against this killing will fall on deaf ears because the people who make these decisions are not only unable to hear, they cannot feel.

And, please, anyone tempted to reply to this letter to call me a bleeding heart, a Bambi lover, or someone who just doesn't understand, I welcome that name-calling as it fits me perfectly and I'm proud of it.

BARBARA JOHNSTONE
Wiggins Street

More Than 50 Residents Will Oppose Variance Appeal Before Zoning Board

To the Editor:

As we move into a second year of hearings in which Morgan Estates LLC (aka Regal Homes) has attempted to get the Township Zoning Board to grant a zoning variance to accommodate high density, high priced apartments that may destroy the fragile ecology of the Princeton Ridge,

there may have been a ray of hope at the Township Zoning Board meeting on December 13.

For those of us who have been in the audience for over a year, we have witnessed a discouraging display on the part of the applicant to exercise the tactic of the filibuster. Webster describes the word as "the verb used to describe tactics intended to sabotage congressional proceedings."

Throughout the past year, citizens in the audience left the meetings discouraged because the applicant skillfully filled every minute of the hearings with paid "experts," offering little chance for those who opposed the variance to express a view.

On December 13 the applicant arrogantly tried to bully the Board into prohibiting testimony of an expert with evidence that opposed the variance, and then attempted to run the clock out with his own summary.

It didn't work. The Zoning Board allowed opposing expert testimony, and gave citizens an opportunity to express themselves in yet another meeting on January 24. At last count, more than 50 citizens south of the Princeton Ridge from Snowden Lane to Harry's Brook to Mt. Lucas Road have signed up to speak in opposition to the variance.

The applicant has skillfully attempted to bully the Board and wear down the neighbors. The result may be just the opposite.

WILLIAM B. STEPHENSON
Governors Lane

Continued Flooding of Harry's Brook Calls for Rainwater Detention Basins

To the Editor:

This is in response to your article, "Harry's Brook Keeps on Flooding as Township Keeps on Treading Water" (Town Topics, December 6).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared in 2004 that "Flooding is New Jersey's number one natural hazard," and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Storm-water Management Rules adopted in 2005 require that all municipalities must address "Groundwater Recharge and Water Quantity Impacts."

The outcome of the November 29 Flood Control Committee meeting confirms that flooding along Harry's Brook continues to be a severe problem that affects not just a single house or single lot but entire neighborhoods along the stream corridors. After hearing the presentation by Joe Skupien, the Township storm-water management consultant, it appears that groundwater recharge and water

quantity impacts along Harry's Brook are out of control and getting worse.

Flooding in Princeton is not about wet basements, or about a survey of stream banks and analysis of its findings. The Princeton community has had a rainwater runoff crisis for some time and one solution to the problem is to contain and slow down the entry of rainwater runoff into Harry's Brook via detention basins.

The DEP's new Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules theme is "to ensure that the action of one property owner does not adversely impact the rights of other property owners, as measured by increased flood peaks, flood stages, flood velocity, and erosion and sedimentation." If "flood plains are natural occurrences," and the "channel [of Harry's Brook] was formed by erosion," then the time has come to protect a rapidly vanishing environment.

OLIVIA APPLIGATE
Random Road

Landau's Store Is Thanked for Hosting Fund-Raising Appearance by PHS Choir

To the Editor:

On Saturday and Sunday members of the Princeton High School Choir sang for the holiday shoppers at Landau's to raise funds for the choir's trip to Sweden in February.

Thank you to Robert and Henry Landau for allowing the choir to conduct this fund-raising effort at their store and generously contributing a portion of sales to the choir. The students raised funds for two scholarships and had a great time singing.

Thanks again to everyone at Landau's and all the shoppers who supported this event.

The PHS Choirs' Annual Winter Concert is Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Princeton University Chapel. See you there!

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Borough Police

continued from page one

September 8 beating of three Hispanic men. The arrests spawned an investigation by the Human Rights Subcommittee of the Princeton Human Services Commission, and, while the findings of the investigation showed that the department acted within the law, the incident has revealed feelings of distrust toward Borough Police by the Borough's black and Hispanic community.

Responding to comments made at a November 27 community meeting at the First Baptist Church, Borough Police Chief Anthony Federico defended the department saying that he had received no other complaints related to insensitivity regarding arrests made by Borough Police, adding that of the approximate 600 arrests made in 2006, 147 were black, and 13 of that number were residents of Princeton Borough. "I think the statistics speak for themselves and it certainly doesn't point to any targeting of any individuals," he said.

Chief Federico added that he "strongly disagrees" with the perception of department

insensitivity. The Borough turned the case over to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, which is currently handling the investigation.

In the meantime, however, Council members expressed concern over the fact that there were negative feelings among community members in the first place. Councilman David Goldfarb made a reference to "casual comments" made when officers are on duty. That reference, upon which Mr. Goldfarb did not elaborate, appeared to be connected to the student arrests. "We don't tolerate racially insensitive comments here at Borough Hall when police officers are on duty, even if they're not in public," he said.

"It's a serious problem if they occur because it indicates a certain mindset that can be reflected in public, making people believe they are not being treated fairly or partially," Mr. Goldfarb added. "We need to make sure we are using every management technique to eliminate any behaviors that members of our community find objectionable."

Councilwoman Wendy Benchley, who said she was "pleased" with the statistics

Chief Federico provided, pointed to the level of criticism and community input fielded in the meeting at the First Baptist Church as a reason why the Borough should hold more meetings in that type of setting. She also called for a public follow-up addressing police-related issues. Borough Administrator Robert Bruschi indicated that there would be more meetings and that the November 27 event was geared to be the first in a series of sessions outside of Borough Hall.

Mayor Mildred Trotman said regardless of what the record showed specifically related to the student arrests, the "perception is a negative one, and whether it's real or not, that's a problem."

"What we need to try to do is change the perception."

—Matthew Hersh

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Calendar

Saturday, December 23

3 p.m.: Arts Council of Princeton's Classic Comedy Cavalcade (comedy film classics); conTEMPORARY Arts Center, Princeton Shopping Center.

Sunday, December 24

11 a.m.: Arrival of Santa Claus; Princeton Airport, Route 206. To participate, call (609) 921-3100.

5:15 p.m.: Arts Council of Princeton's Annual Christmas Eve Caroling; Palmer Square Green.

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 27

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Annual Festival of Trees; Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street. Also Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 28

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: American Red Cross Blood Drive; Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health & Wellness, 3100 Quakerbridge Road, Hamilton.

Friday, December 29

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.: American Red Cross Blood Drive; St. James Church, 17 Eglantine Avenue, Pennington.

8 and 10:30 p.m.: Comedians Paul Venier with Steve Trevelise; Catch A Rising Star Comedy Club, Hyatt Regency. Also Saturday and Sunday at 8 and

10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Annual Festival of Trees; Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street. Also Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

2 and 8 p.m.: *Mirocle on 34th Street*; Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Pa. Also Thursday and Friday at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m.

6:30 and 8:30 p.m.: *Corols of Many Notions* service; Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary.

7:30 p.m.: *A Christmas Carol*; McCarter Theatre. Also Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1 and 5:30 p.m., Sunday at noon and 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

7:30 p.m.: Princeton High School Winter Choir Concert; Princeton University Chapel.

8 p.m.: Eileen Ivers in *An Nolloig/An Irish Christmas*; State Theatre, New Brunswick.

Friday, December 22

7 p.m.: Belle Mead Ballet Company's *The Nutcracker*; Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College. Also Saturday at 2 and 4 p.m.

8 p.m.: Dance Improv movement workshop; All Saints' Church.

8 and 10:30 p.m.: Comedians Jimmy Graham and Jeff Collins; Catch A Rising Star Comedy Club, Hyatt Regency. Also Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m.

It's Important to Believe That Darwin Loves You."

Prof. Levine is professor emeritus and former Kenneth Burke Professor of Literature in the English Department of Rutgers University. For 20 years he directed the Center for Cultural Analysis, an interdisciplinary humanities center. Over the last 20 years, he has focused intensively on Darwin and on scientific thought in the 19th century as it impinged on literature and culture.

55PLUS is a non-sectarian group that promotes social contacts and friendships among men who are either retired or who have flexible working hours. It meets at 10 a.m. on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month except June, July, and August to discuss a wide range of topics with prominent speakers. Its meetings are open to the public.

Princeton Singles has scheduled two events for Saturday, December 23.

An hour-long canal walk, followed by an optional lunch, will begin at 10 a.m. Participants will meet in the parking lot at the Winepress Restaurant in Kingston. For reservations, call (908) 874-

5434.

The club will also host a Christmas dinner at the Inn at Lambertville Station at 12:30 p.m. For reservations, call (609) 275-5180.

The Women's College Club of Princeton is planning a trip on Thursday, January 11 to the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University for a docent-led tour of the exhibit, *Toulouse-Lautrec and the French Impressionists: Fin de Siecle Posters in Paris, Brussels, and Barcelona*. Other exhibits currently on view at the museum are experimental works of 20th century Russian artists.

The public is invited to join club members for the museum tour and lunch in New Brunswick at Old Man Rafferty's. The cost will be \$5 for the museum; lunch will be the cost of the meal.

Transportation will be by car pooling from the parking lot at Eckerd Drugs in the Princeton Shopping Center beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For reservations, call (609) 921-8575 or (609) 252-2309.

CLUBS

55PLUS will hear a talk by George Levine, Ph.D., at its meeting on Thursday, December 21 at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Center of Princeton. Prof. Levine's topic will be "Secular Enchantment: Why



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ART

Mongolia's Golden Eagle Hunters On View in Upcoming Gallery 14 Show

Gallery 14 in Hopewell will be presenting "Mongolia: Where Kazakhs Hunt with Eagles," an exhibit by charter member photographer David H. Miller that will open on January 5 with a reception for the public from 6 to 9 p.m. Set to run through February 4, the exhibit features landscape panoramas and portraits of the Golden Eagle hunters of western Mongolia, a Kazakh-populated area that maintains the ancient tradition of using Golden Eagles to hunt.

The photographer will be on hand to discuss his travels in Mongolia on Saturday, January 6, or Sunday, January 7, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Ninety percent of Northwestern Mongolia is populated by Kazakhs, with the remainder Mongols and Tuvans. There are few significant settlements in this sparsely settled region, with cattle, sheep and goat-herding the primary occupations.

After attending the Golden Eagle Festival, a two-day event that helps preserve the 2,000 year-old tradition of hunting with golden eagles, Mr. Miller stayed on in a camp where the eagle hunters were living, rode with them in the area, witnessed and photographed the close relationship between eagles and master. Since he speaks Russian, a common second language in Mongolia, he came to know some of these hunters and many of the members of the festival committee. Both during the festival, which attracted over 30 of the best eagle hunters, and afterwards when he lived in the camp with the hunters, he concentrated on capturing their unique character. The age range is from 22 to 82, with years of experience eagle hunting from five to 30-plus.

As when he photographed in Russia, China, and Afghanistan, Mr. Miller used his camera as a means of getting to know his subjects, and he chatted with them (sometimes needing translation from Russian to Kazakh), had dinner with a small group of hunters where they discussed their

experiences and lives, and rode with them.

This exhibit also includes a small selection of panoramic photographs depicting a land of sparse resources, harsh climate and uninhabited tracts. Even when one reaches places clearly marked on the maps, such as Tolbo Nuur, there are only herds of animals and a few gers (yurts in common usage), piles of cattle dung used as fuel and a dog or two.

Other examples of David Miller's work may be seen at www.dhmillierphotography.com.

Gallery 14 was established in 2001 by a group of central New Jersey photographers, opening the gallery on September 14, 2001 as a center for photographers in the area. It is run by its members, who create, operate and exhibit at the gallery along with guest photographers of local and international reputation as well.

Currently on view at the gallery is an exhibit of photography by Jay Goodkind and Karl Heinz Gartlgruber, which will run through December 24.

Located at 14 Mercer Street in Hopewell, the Gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

"Mercer County Artists" Invite Entries for 2007

Artists living, working, or studying in Mercer County are invited to participate in Mercer County Artists 2007, an annual juried exhibition taking place in The Gallery at Mercer County Community College.

This will be the 35th anniversary of the event, a collaboration between the college and Mercer County's Cultural and Heritage Commission. Jurying will take place on Saturday, January 13, for the one-day event. Artists must drop their work off between 9:30 a.m. and noon, and must pick up work not selected for the show later the same day.

This year's juror is Burt Wasserman, who taught Fine Art and Art Appreciation at Rowan College for many years. He is the art critic with Art Matters newspaper, as well as a recognized artist with work in many public and private collections.

More than \$1,500 in prizes and purchase awards will be presented, including several Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission purchase awards, the Utrecht Art Supplies Best in Show prize, and the annual West Windsor Arts Council award. Show dates are January 22 to February 16. A reception for the artists will take place on Wednesday, January 25, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. A prospectus is available online and in the display area outside of the gallery.

The Gallery is located in the Communications Building, second floor, on the college's West Windsor Campus, 1200 Old Trenton Road. For additional information, e-mail gallery@mccc.edu or call (609) 570-3589.

This exhibit is supported, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, through a grant from the County Board of Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

ALL THE NEWS FROM HOME: TOWN TOPICS subscription for your college-bound son or daughter is only \$28 for nine months. Call 924-2200



HUNTER AND WEAPON: This close-up view of one of the Kazakh hunters with his masked eagle will be on view in David H. Miller's Gallery 14 exhibit, from January 5 to February 4. There will be a reception for the public from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, January 5.



"RALLY IN THE RAIN:" This work by Ted Peck of Princeton was the winner of the 2006 Purchase Award at Mercer County Artists' annual juried exhibition held in The Gallery at Mercer County Community College.

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Area Exhibits

Artful Deposit Gallery in Bordentown will celebrate Gennady Spirin's new book *The Night Before Christmas*, with an exhibit of the artist's work through January 5, 2007.

The Arts Council of Princeton's conTEMPORARY Arts Center, located in the Princeton Shopping Center, is presenting "Missing Dog": A Photographic Celebration of Our Community Kiosks by Walter Frank, which will be on display in the Reading Room through December 22. "Sauce for the Goose," the annual holiday arts and crafts sale, will be held through December 22.

The Bernstein Gallery at the Woodrow Wilson School is presenting "Unacceptable Losses," a photo-documentary by Arthur Robinson Williams examining current U.S. drug policies and the individuals most affected by them, from now through January 19, 2007.

The Coryell Gallery at the Porkyard, 8 Coryell Street, in Lambertville, is currently presenting "Two Points of View," a special exhibit featuring oil painters Lisa Mahan and Colette Sexton, which will run through January 14, 2007.

The Gallery at Plainsboro Public Library will be presenting "Hucksters, Beggars and Rebels," the recent work of Lionel Goodman, throughout the month of December.

Grounds for Sculpture will be hosting three exhibi-

tions of contemporary sculpture through April 29, 2007. Manuel Neri's exhibition "Figure in Relief" will be on view in the Museum Building. Steven Siegel's "Wonderful Life" and the International Sculpture Center's 2006 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards will be exhibited in the Domestic Arts Building.

The James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown is presenting "Poetry in Design: The Art of Harry Leith-Ross," through March 4, 2007. "Duane Hanson: Real Life," will be on view through January 14. "Constructions: Photographs by Michael Becotte" will run through March 18, and an outdoor sculpture installation by Christoph Spath will be on view through February 25. The museum is located at 138 South Pine Street in Doylestown. For more information, call (215) 340-9800.

"Form Radiating Life: The Paintings of Charles Rosen" will be on view in the **Carol & Louis Della Penna Gallery** at the Michener Museum at 500 Union Square Drive in New Hope through January 28.

The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick is presenting "Toulouse-Lautrec and the French Imprint: Fin-de-siècle Posters in Paris, Brussels, and Barcelona," which will be on view in the museum's Voorhees Special Exhibition Galleries through February 18, 2007. Other exhibits are "Word and Image: Visual Experiments of Soviet Nonconformist Artists, 1960s-80s" in the DuBrow Gallery through March 25, 2007, and in the Russian Special Exhibition Gallery: "Word and Image: Visual Experiments of Russian Artists, 1910s-30s." The Zimmerli is located at 71 Hamilton Street on the College Avenue campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

The Jewish Center at 435 Nassau Street is presenting "The Nature of Existence: Photographs by Maria Reim and Gil Gordon," through January 7.

Johnson & Johnson's World Headquarters Gallery in New Brunswick is currently presenting "Visions of Landscape" featuring the work of Liron Sussman. Part of the company's ongoing New Jersey Artists series, the exhibition will continue through January 8.

The Montgomery Center for the Arts will be hosting an invitational art exhibition, "Science as Muse: Eight Artistic Riffs on Science and Technology," through February 4, 2007 at its gallery at the 1860 House in Skillman, New Jersey.

Morven Museum & Garden will showcase New Jersey architecture with the exhibit, "A New Jersey Treasure: The Large House in Miniature." The exhibit will be decorated for the holidays through January 7 and will remain on view through March 30.

The Nassau Club at 6 Mercer Street is presenting a solo exhibition by Gordon Haas titled "Our Local Area" through January 7.

Princeton Day School is hosting an outdoor exhibit featuring metal, wood, stone and concrete sculptures on

the PDS campus through June 2007.

The Princeton University Art Museum is presenting "Pietro da Cortona's Saint Martina Refuses to Adore the Idols: A Painting in Context" & "Front & Center: Figure Drawings by Pietro da Cortona and His Contemporaries," through January 21, 2007. "Fin de Siècle" traces the evolution of Modernism from the 1880s to the 1940s and will be on view through January 14 in two side-by-side exhibitions featuring more than 50 works on paper from the collections of the museum and the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Firestone Library. "Japanese Views of East and West: Imprinting the Other in Meiji Eyes," an exhibition of color woodblock prints

focusing on the country's perceptions of other cultures from the 1860s to the beginning of the twentieth century, will be on view through January 7.

Red Green Blue at 4 Hulfish Street will be showing artwork by students from the Hun School this month in its new children's art gallery.

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park is presenting an exhibit of work by Carmen Johnson and Susanne Pitak-Davis through January 7, 2007.

The University Medical Center at Princeton is hosting a pastel art exhibit by Grace Previty Johnston through January 17, 2007. The exhibit may be viewed daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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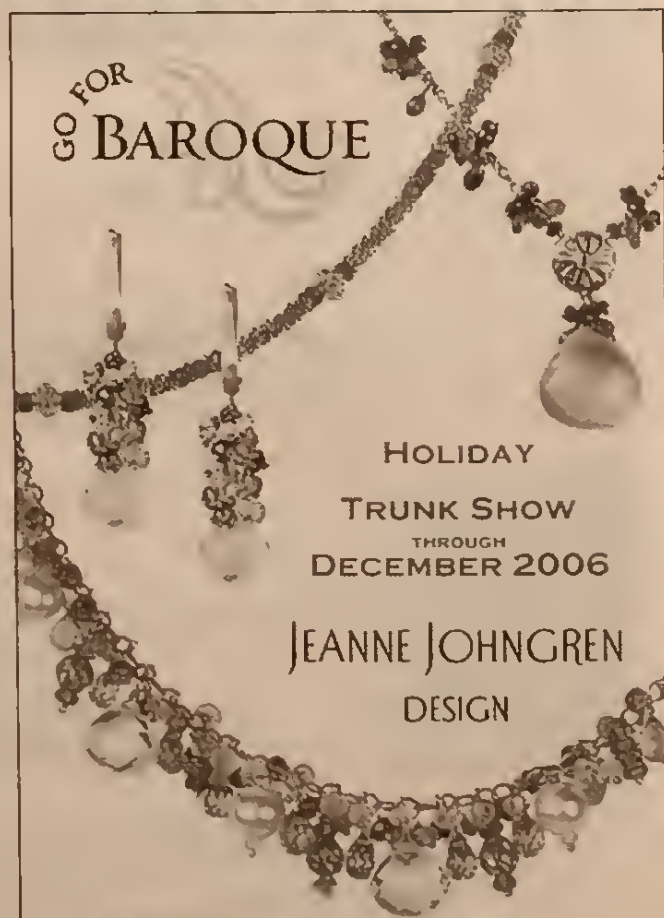
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MUSIC REVIEW

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Chorus Give Their Best in Richardson Auditorium

As rich as the musical scene is in Princeton, occasionally an ensemble or artist comes through demonstrating a worldwide musical standard and providing a taste of performance life on the other side of the Atlantic. Such an ensemble came to Richardson Auditorium last Monday night when renowned Dutch musicologist and conductor Ton Koopman led the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Chorus in an exquisite program of 18th century instrumental and choral music as part of the McCarter Theatre music series.

Mr. Koopman has a worldwide reputation as a Baroque scholar and interpreter, which is especially noteworthy because of a printed debate that raged through the journal *Early Music* on whether Bach's music was originally performed by an ensemble or one-on-a-part. For Monday night's performance — one stop on the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra's East coast U.S. tour — Mr. Koopman did not defer to the one-on-a-part school, but presented a chamber orchestra of twenty-four and a chorus of about the same number of singers. With these precise players and singers, Mr. Koopman presented an informed and crystal clear performance of Buxtehude, Corelli, and Bach.

Buxtehude is more known for his organ music than his choral works, and his *Magnificat* gave the orchestra and chorus the chance to demonstrate why they are among the finest ensembles in the world. Naturally tuned a bit lower than the current orchestral "A," the instruments of the orchestra provided a mellow sound, with the players' attention to detail that included clearly articulated ornaments.

With its pure and open vowels, the Dutch language is conducive to good singing, and the chorus, complete with male altos suitable to the period, melded well into the orchestral sound. Vowels were kept very forward, especially the unlauted German "u" sound, more prevalent in the excerpt from Bach's Christmas Oratorio than the Buxtehude.

Four soloists joined the chorus in these vocal numbers, as well as Bach's *Magnificat* in the second half. Soprano Bettina Pahn and mezzo Bogna Bartosz worked musically together especially well in the Buxtehude piece, and Bartosz's presentation of Bach's Christmas aria "Bereite dich, Zion" was quick with clean lines, accompanied by a solid continuo of a Baroque oboe d'amore, Tenor Jörg

Dürmüller was much more operatic than his colleagues, jarring the audience initially with his volume, but certainly settling in as the Evangelist in the Christmas Oratorio cantata. Bass Kfaus Mertens was more refined in the upper register, accompanied by an exquisite oboe d'amore in his aria from the cantata.

The showcase piece on this concert for the orchestra alone was Corelli's Christmas Concerto, Concerto Grosso, opus 6. The concerto was originally scored for only strings and continuo, and Mr. Koopman added oboes, flutes and a bassoon for an innovative effect. Playing and conducting from a portable organ, Mr. Koopman guided the players through a quick, decisive and well-phrased performance, recreating the Italian "pastoral" instrumental atmosphere of the 17th century. Flutists Wilbert Hazelzet and Marion Moonen played as one instrument, and bassoonist Wouter Verscharen's preciseness could be heard clearly through the orchestral texture.

Chorus and orchestra came together in the second half for Bach's *Magnificat*, often performed at this time of year, but curiously performed Monday night without the Christmas interpolations. The chorus continued its uniform vowels and even floratura, and was especially precise in the "Omnes generationes" chorus, in the "Et exultavit" aria, mezzo soloist Ms. Bartosz placed an emphasis on rhythm, not necessarily drawing out the vocal lines, but keeping the aria crisp. Soprano Ms. Pahn kept the "Quia respexit" aria clean with attention to dynamics, well accompanied by Alexandra Bellamy on the oboe d'amore. Mr. Dürmüller had no trouble handling the drama of "Deposuit potentes," and bass Mr. Mertens provided a clean "Quia fecit," accompanied solidly by the organ and cello.

Instrumental phrasing was very noteworthy, especially the flutes in the "Esurientes implevit" duet between Ms. Bartosz and Mr. Dürmüller, as well as the pizzicato cello and double bass. Mr. Koopman kept tempi fast and clean, keeping the audience's attention and making for a very pleasurable performance.

This orchestra and chorus are among the world's finest, and conversations with the players indicated they were happy with performing in Richardson. Hopefully, Princeton audiences can again experience these ensembles in the future.

—Nancy Plann



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New Jersey Symphony To Welcome New Year With Beethoven's 8th

Welcoming the new year, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will offer an evening of classical and contemporary works in a concert on Friday, January 5 at 8 p.m. at Richardson Auditorium.

The concert will be one of four during a busy week for the orchestra, which will also visit bergenPAC in Englewood on Thursday, January 4 at 8 p.m., Prudential Hall/NJPAC in Newark on Saturday, January 6 at 8 p.m., and the Community Theatre in Morristown on Sunday, January 7 at 3 p.m.

The concert program will begin with Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F, a "smaller" symphony and one of the composer's personal favorites. A work by

contemporary composer John Adams, titled *Shaker Loops*, will follow, featuring NJSO's Golden Age Collection of string instruments. The concert will conclude with New York City Opera music director George Manahan leading violinist Jennifer Koh and the symphony in Tchaikovsky's Concerto in D for Violin and Orchestra.

Beethoven's Eighth Symphony made its debut in 1814 along with the Seventh Symphony, which greatly overshadowed it. A playful work, the composer referred to it as "my little one."

A Grammy Award-winning composer, Mr. Adams was born in 1947 in Massachusetts and currently resides in San Francisco. His choral work commemorating the victims of 9/11, *On the Transmigration of Souls*, won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for music and three Grammy Awards in 2005. He is perhaps best known, however, for his opera *Nixon in China*, which premiered in 1987 at the Houston Grand Opera and won a Grammy for best contemporary composition. The work is considered by many to be a trailblazer for post-modern music theater.

Regarding *Shaker Loops*, Mr. Adams has said, "It sum-

mons up the vision of these otherwise pious and industrious souls caught up in the ecstatic frenzy of a dance that culminated in an epiphany of physical and spiritual transcendence."

Ms. Koh, called a "fearless soloist" by The New York Times, will make her NJSO debut performing the Tchaikovsky concerto. For the January concerts, she will play a 1727 Ex Grumiaux Ex General DuPont Stradivari. Her 2005-06 engagements have included performances at the Holland Festival in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and with the Ensemble Contrechamps in Geneva and OFUNAM Orchestra in Mexico City.

The evening's conductor, Mr. Manahan, shares a long history with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, where he served as acting music director from 1982 to 1985 and has been a regular guest conductor since. The principal conductor with the Minnesota Opera from 1988 to 1996, he has also been a frequent guest conductor with the Seattle Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, and Santa Fe Opera companies.

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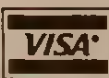
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PRINCETON — A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make before buying a home.

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This report is courtesy of Harveen Bhatia & William Usab Jr., KELLER WILLIAMS PRINCETON. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. Copyright ©2006.

Symphonica Toscanini Here on First U.S. Tour

En route to New York's Lincoln Center, a new orchestra from Rome, Symphonica Toscanini, will perform at New Brunswick's State Theatre on Sunday, January 14 at 3 p.m. The concert, led by music director and conductor Lorin Maazel, will be the fourth concert of the orchestra's inaugural U.S. tour, which will take it three days later to Lincoln Center for a performance with the

New York Philharmonic and soprano Renee Fleming for the Toscanini 50th Anniversary Gala.

The orchestra is dedicated to Arturo Toscanini's ideals and legacy. Its U.S. tour, titled "In the Footsteps of Toscanini — Symphony of the Air," commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the conductor's death.

The tour will take the orchestra to the United States, South America, Japan, and Israel to perform more than 40 concerts. It follows the historical tours made by the maestro in 1920 with the Orchestra Arturo Toscanini and in 1950 (at the age of 83) with the NBC Symphony Orchestra.

Founded in Rome in May 2006, with Lorin Maazel as Music Director for Life, Symphonica Toscanini has already toured Russia, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. The orchestra is dedicated to Toscanini, whose many achievements include serving as music director of Milan's Teatro alla Scala, New York's Metropolitan Opera Company, the New York Philharmonic, and the NBC

Symphony Orchestra.

Considered by many to have been the greatest conductor of his era, Toscanini (1867-1957) was renowned for his relentless perfectionism, his ear for orchestral detail, and his photographic memory, which gave him extraordinary command over a vast repertoire of orchestral and operatic works, allowing him to correct errors in orchestral parts unnoticed by his colleagues.

Mr. Maazel, who has led more than 150 orchestras in more than 5,000 opera and concert performances, became music director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2002. His appointment came 60 years after his debut with the Orchestra at Lewisohn Stadium, then the Orchestra's summer venue. Beginning with the 2006-07 season, he is also serving as music director of the new Santiago Calatrava-designed opera house, the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, in Valencia, Spain.

The repertoire for the new tour is heavily influenced by the programmatic choices of Toscanini. The first Italian conductor to establish himself as being adept at performing both foreign and Italian works, he was known for his interpretation of the music of Wagner, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky, in addition to works by Italian masters such as Verdi, Rossini, Respighi, and Puccini.

Tickets range from \$45 to \$75, with group, college student, and senior discounts available. To order, call (732) 246-7469 or visit www.StateTheatreNJ.org.

Folk Music Folks Plan Garnet Rogers Concert

Folksinger-songwriter Garnet Rogers will return to Princeton on Friday, January 19 for a performance at 8:15 p.m. at Christ Congregation Church. The event is part of the concert series

sponsored by the Princeton Folk Music Society.

Called "one of the major talents of our time" by The Boston Globe, Mr. Rogers has recorded more than a dozen albums, solo and with other artists. In the process he has become widely regarded as an important songwriter. A Canadian reviewer has lauded him for "creating concise, often emotionally riveting songs that eschew sentimentality."

Mr. Rogers has been featured on numerous radio and television programs, including *Mountain Stage* and *All Things Considered*. He prefers to perform at folk clubs and small theaters, and usually avoids folk festivals. He says he has "no interest in major labels" because "I don't want anyone telling me what to do and what clothes to wear."

The tour that will bring Mr. Rogers to Princeton is being used to advance a number of causes, including the campaign to end hunger. In response to Mr. Rogers' request, the Folk Music Society is inviting attendees to bring to the concert donations of nonperishable food and/or personal care items. The donations will be forwarded to the Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton.

Admission to the concert will be \$15 for the public, \$10 for members of the Folk Music Society and affiliated organizations, and \$3 for children 11 and under, with special rates for students. There are no advance sales.

The Christ Congregation Church is located at 50 Walnut Lane.

The next event in the Folk Music Society's concert series will be a performance on Friday, February 16 by Lou and Peter Berryman. For more information, call (609) 799-0944 or visit <http://princetonfolk.org>.

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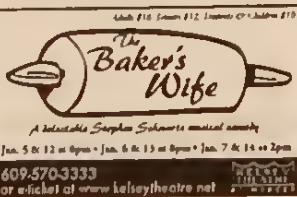
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BURLINGTON**Tony Award Winning Play
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New Brunswick's George Street Playhouse will present Doug Wright's award-winning *I Am My Own Wife*, starring Princeton University alumnus Mark Nelson, in a four-week run beginning with a preview performance on Tuesday, January 16. The play, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and Tony Award for best play, has also won Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League awards.

The show will star Mr. Nelson in a tour-de-force performance portraying Germany's



most controversial transvestite and 34 other roles.

Directed by Anders Cato, the production continues the collaboration between Mr. Nelson and Mr. Cato that began at the Cleveland Play House a year ago.

I Am My Own Wife is the fictionalized story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, born Lothar Berfelde, a German transvestite who survived both the Nazis and the Communists in East Germany. Born in 1928, Charlotte was physically male and abused by her father for her interest in girlish activities. At 16, she allegedly killed her father in his sleep after he threatened to kill their entire family, and consequently spent four years in a detention center. With the fall of Berlin, she escaped execution by hiding in a shelter for women and children. She spent the majority of her adult life collecting antiques, which led to her creation of the acclaimed Gründerzeit Museum. Later in life, accusations arose about her past, especially her connections to the East German Secret police. Was she a spy? Did she really kill her father? Is her story full of lies? The questions are at the heart of the play.

Mr. Wright met with and interviewed von Mahlsdorf over a period of months between 1992 and 1994; to craft the play he also used letters and items from the public record.

"This play, about a man who overcomes a brutal father, disapproval of his sexuality, and political repression, portrays in excruciating terms nothing less than what it is to be human," wrote Tony Brown of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. He described Mr. Nelson's performance as "vocally, bodily, facially, and in every other way...gigantic."



TOUR DE FORCE: Princeton University alumnus Mark Nelson will portray the lead role of Germany's Charlotte von Mahlsdorf and 34 other roles in "*I Am My Own Wife*," arriving Tuesday, January 16 for a four-week run at New Brunswick's George Street Playhouse. The play, which will be directed by Anders Cato, was a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and Tony Award for best play. For tickets, call (732) 246-7717

For Mr. Nelson, *I Am My Own Wife* will mark a return visit to George Street, where he directed *The Seagull* and acted in *Talley's Folly*. He has performed on Broadway, Playhouse, and Theater in the Square, among others.

Performances will be January in *After the Fall*, *The Invention of Love*, *Three Sisters*, *A Few Good Men*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, and *Amadeus*. He received an Obie Award for Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and the 2006 Connecticut Critics Circle Award for *Underneath the Lintel* at Long Wharf Theatre.

Mr. Cato previously collaborated with Mr. Nelson on *Talley's Folly* at the Berkshire Theatre Festival. He has also directed many shows at American Reperto-

ry Theater, Moscow Art Theater, Cherry Lane Theater, Westbeth Theater, La Jolla 16 to 18 at 8 p.m., January 19 (opening night) at 8 p.m., January 20 at 2 and 8 p.m., January 22 at 2 p.m., January 23 and 24 at 8 p.m., January 25 at 2 and 8 p.m., January 26 at 8 p.m., January 28 at 2 p.m., January 30 and 31 at 8 p.m., February 1 and 2 at 8 p.m., February 3 at 2 and 8 p.m., February 4 at 2 and 7 p.m., February 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., February 8 at 2 and 8 p.m., February 9 at 8 p.m., February 10 at 2 and 8 p.m., and February 11 at 2 p.m.

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Comedy "A Baker's Wife" Next at Kelsey Theatre

What is a French village without its bread? Apparently, in chaos. That's the premise of the Pennington Players musical comedy, *The Baker's Wife*, coming to Mercer County Community College's Kelsey Theatre for two weekends in January.

Adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Joseph Stein from the French film *La Femme de Boulanger* by Marcel Pagnol and Jean Glono, *The Baker's Wife* focuses on a village that has lost its baker. The arrival of Aimable, the talented new baker, and his young wife Genevieve is accompanied by much joy. But the celebration is cut short when Genevieve is wooed away by a young handyman. As the distraught baker falls apart, his bread-making suffers. The villagers must put aside their petty squabbles and come up with a plan to lure back Aimable's wife if they want their daily bread.

Starring in the production will be Tom Bessellieu of Ewing as Aimable and Deena Toni Frankel of Fairless Hills, Pa. as Genevieve. The cast will also include Wayne Irons of Princeton, Lynn Baskin and Elizabeth Rzasa of Lawrenceville, James Petro of Hamilton, Carrie Rupnow-Kidd of Philadelphia, Fred Bartlett of Hamilton, Jay Harris of East Windsor, Marc Flicker, Fred Gropper, and Rachel Messler of Yardley, Sarah Krauss of Hopewell, and Kristin Keenan and Kristina Mancini of Ewing.

The show will be directed by Frank Ferrara of Florence and produced by Jenn Gregg of Ewing, with musical direc-

tion by Shannon Ferrara of Florence and choreography by Nicole Farina of Hamilton.

Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays, January 5, 6, 12, and 13 at 8 p.m., and Sundays, January 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$10 for students and children. To order, call (609) 570-3333 or visit www.kelseytheatre.net.

Arts Council to Present Comedy Film Classics

The Arts Council of Princeton will host its seventh annual Classic Comedy Cavalcade, an afternoon of comedy film classics, on Thursday, December 28 at 3 p.m. at the conTEMPORARY Arts Center in the Princeton Shopping Center.

The movies, which will appeal to all ages, will include animated cartoons and a mix of short films featuring Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, and Buster Keaton.

Film historian and archivist Bruce Lawton will introduce the films and provide "behind the scenes" information about the movies and the artists. He will also take questions from the audience following the screening, which will last approximately 90 minutes.

Mr. Lawton fell in love with silent and classic comedies as a child. A motion picture and video specialist who has produced and consulted on numerous documentaries and assisted in the restoration of Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* and Buster Keaton's *The Cameraman*, he now presents silent film series at festivals and in schools



AN AMIABLE AIMABLE: Tom Bessellieu of Ewing, left, will star as the baker Aimable, with his wife Genevieve, played by Deena Toni Frankel of Fairless Hills, Pa. In "*The Baker's Wife*," coming to Mercer County Community College's Kelsey Theatre January 5 through 14. For tickets, call (609) 570-3333.

across the country. For the past five years he has co-hosted The Silent Clowns Film Series at The New-York Historical Society.

Admission to the program will be \$6 at the door (or \$5

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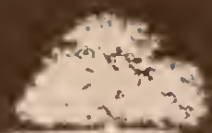
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CINEMA REVIEW

The Pursuit of Happyness

Vet Goes From Broke and Homeless to Successful Stockbroker

In 2003, the ABC-TV newsmagazine 20/20 ran a story about a Navy veteran who had fallen on hard times and ended up homeless on the streets of San Francisco. In the heartbreaking segment, Chris Gardner recounted how, after being abandoned by his wife, evicted from his apartment, having his account frozen by the IRS, and having his car repossessed, he and his five year-old son reached bottom with no hope in sight. They ate at soup kitchens, slept in church shelters and subway stations, and bathed in public bathrooms, until the father figured a way to extricate them from their dire circumstances.

Like the hero of a typical Horatio Alger story, Gardner pulled himself up by his bootstraps, starting out as an intern at a leading stock brokerage firm. He then parlayed that position into his own entrepreneurial venture and, as the founder of Christopher Gardner International Holdings, built the multi-million-dollar financial services empire which bears his name today. After watching the 20/20 episode, actor Mark Clayman approached Gardner about turning his rags-to-riches tale into a major motion picture.

The result is a crowd pleasing production called *The Pursuit of Happyness*; one of those uplifting, overcoming-the-odds movies which are released every year around Christmas. This inspirational bio-pic features Will and Jaden Smith as Chris and Chris, Jr., respectively. The real life father-son duo has no trouble generating screen chemistry, and Jaden is just as likable and charismatic as his famous father.

Thandie Newton co-stars as Chris' ex-wife Linda, and

the cast includes Dan Castelloneta (the voice of Homer Simpson) as Alan Frakesh, — the Dean Witter executive who gives Chris his shot at redemption — along with cameos of Reverend Cecil Williams and Chris Gardner. However, this is a Will and Jaden Smith vehicle, their characters' plight contrasts sharply with the array of spectacular Bay Area locales employed as backdrops.

The movie takes its title, complete with the misspelling, from the name of the Chinatown day care center where Chris drops off his little boy each weekday until his money runs out. At the point of departure, we find Chris putting in long hours trying to sell an obsolete bone-density machine door-to-door to doctors. Meanwhile, his equally-exhausted spouse is holding down

three part-time positions, but the couple can't make ends meet.

Then, in short order, Chris is beset by more tribulations than Job in the Bible, losing everything near and dear to him except his son. Yet despite being down, he is never embittered by his predicament, and even manages to maintain his sense of humor and quick wit during his Dean Witter interview when Mr Frakesh asks how he should explain hiring a man not wearing a shirt to superiors. "He must have had on some really nice pants," Chris responds without missing a beat, exhibiting a charm reminiscent of the *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*.

Expect to laugh as much as you cry.

Excellent (★★★½). PG-13 for profanity. Running time: 116 minutes. Studio: Columbia Pictures.

—Kam Williams



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AT THE CINEMA

Apocalypse (R for graphic violence and disturbing images). Mel Gibson directs this mythical melodrama set during the decline of the Mayan civilization. Designated as a sacrifice to the gods atop a great pyramid, Rudy Youngblood stars as a young tribesman, who flees the kingdom to avoid his fate to return, ultimately, to exact retribution and to find his family.

Blood Diamond (R for profanity and graphic violence). Historical drama, set in Sierra Leone in the nineties during a civil war, follows the efforts of a fisherman (Djimon Hounsou) and a mercenary (Leonardo DiCaprio) who join forces to recover a priceless diamond and to smuggle it out of the country with the help of an American journalist (Jennifer Connelly).

Casino Royale (PG-13 for sexuality, nudity, torture, and violence). Daniel Craig is introduced as the new James Bond for the 21st installment of the 007 franchise. This remake, originally released in 1967 as a spoof starring Woody Allen, is based on the debut novel in Ian Fleming's famed series. Bond is on a mission to Madagascar to track down a terrorist (Sebastien Foucan) planning to fund a diabolical plot with casino prize money. Cast includes Dame Judi Dench, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini, Caterina Murino, and Eva Green.

Charlotte's Web (G). Dakota Fanning stars in this remake of this children's classic about a little girl who enlists the assistance of a clever spider (Julia Roberts) to save her pet pig (Dominic Scott Kay) from the smokehouse. Voice cast includes Steve Buscemi, John Cleeve, Oprah Winfrey, Reba McEntire, Cedric the Entertainer, Andre Benjamin, Robert Redford and Kathy Bates.

Deck the Halls (PG for off-color language, and crude humor). Comedy features Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito as next-door neighbors competing to outdo each other's outdoor Christmas light display. Cast includes Kristin Davis and Kristin Chenoweth as their spouses, respectively.

Déjà Vu (PG-13 for sensuality, disturbing images, and sequences of terror). Denzel Washington stars in this adventure as an ATF Agent who travels back in time to prevent the detonation of a weapon of mass destruction on a New Orleans ferry boat only to end up falling in love with one of the people (Paula Patton) about to be murdered. Cast includes Jim Caviezel, Val Kilmer, and Elle Fanning.

Dreamgirls (PG-13 for sex, expletives, and drug use). American Idol Jennifer Hudson brings down the house in this adaptation of the Tony Award-winning musical which opened on Broadway 25 years ago about the trials and tribulations of a sixties R&B trio similar to The Supremes. Cast also includes Beyoncé, Anika Noni Rose, Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy, Danny Glover, John Lithgow, Bobby Slayton, Jaleel "Urkel" White, and Loretta Devine, who starred in the original stage production.

Eragon (PG for frightening images, intense battle sequences, and fantasy violence). Dungeons and Dragons-style film about a dragon-riding orphan (Edward Speelers) who enlists the assistance of an elderly talespinner (Jeremy Irons) to avenge the murder of his uncle on the orders of a monomaniacal monarch (John Malkovich). With Djimon Hounsou, Sienna Guillory and Rachel Weisz.

Far From Consideration (PG-13 for sex and expletives). Parody, set in the forties, examines the fallout visited upon the cast and crew of an independent film influenced by pre-release Oscar buzz to make some last-minute changes to the script. Cast features Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Harry Shearer, Ed Begley, Jr., Christopher Guest, Parker Posey, Sandra Oh, Bob Balaban, Fred Willard, Larry Miller, Ricky Gervais, and Claire Forlani.

The Good Shepherd (R for sex, expletives and violence). Robert De Niro directs and co-stars in this espionage drama about a Skull and Bones fraternity member (Matt Damon), recruited into the CIA right out of Yale, whose innocence and idealism are gradually eroded by the realization that his commitment to fighting the Cold War comes at a cost that takes an increasing toll on his family. Cast includes Angelina Jolie, Joe Pesci, Alec Baldwin, Timothy Hutton, and William Hurt.

Happy Feet (PG for peril and crude humor). Animated, Antarctic adventure about a tone deaf penguin (Elijah Wood) who finds himself a mate (Brittany Murphy) through tap dancing, instead of through singing like the rest of his species. With voicework by Robin Williams, Hugh Jackman, Hugo Weaving, Nicole Kidman, and Steve Irwin.

The History Boys (R for sex and expletives). Comedy set in Sheffield in the eighties, about the assorted adventures of a class of bright, but unruly, college-bound British schoolboys as they prepare for the admissions tests to Cambridge and Oxford.

The Holiday (PG-13 for sex and expletives). Christmas comedy about a California girl (Cameron Diaz) and a British woman (Kate Winslet) both in need of a break from a bad relationship who meet online and decide to swap lives for two weeks only to find true love with guys (Jude Law and Jack Black, respectively) they meet in their new locales. With Edward Burns, Rufus Sewell and Eli Wallach.

Hate of the Brave (R for profanity and violence). Samuel L. Jackson co-stars with gangsta' rapper 50 Cent in this post-traumatic stress disorder drama chronicling the efforts of Iraq War veterans to readjust to civilian life after being traumatized by battle duty. Cast includes Jessica Biel, Victoria Rowell and Christina Ricci.

Letters from Iwo Jima (R for graphic violence). Clint Eastwood directs this companion piece to *Flags of Our Fathers*, again revisiting the pivotal World War II battle of the Pacific Theater, but this time from the perspectives of a disillusioned Japanese soldier (Kazunari Ninomiya) and his general (Ken Watanabe).

The Nativity Story (PG for violence). Biblical drama chronicles the trials and tribulations endured by the Virgin Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes) and Joseph (Oscar Isaac) during their 100 mile trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of the Christ child in a manger.

Night at the Museum (PG for crude humor, coarse language, and mild action sequences). Ben Stiller stars in the holiday comedy about a bumbling security guard at the Museum of Natural History who accidentally unleashes a curse which causes the creatures on display to come back to life. With Carla Gugino, Dick Van Dyke, Mickey Rooney, Robin Williams, Ricky Gervais, Charlie Murphy, and the voice of Brad Garrett.

The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13 for profanity). Will Smith stars in this uplifting biopic based on actual events in the life of Christopher Gardiner, a homeless single-father in San Francisco who overcame the odds by becoming a successful stockbroker. Supporting cast includes Thandie Newton, Jaden Smith (Will's son) and Dan Castellaneta.

The Queen (PG-13 for brief profanity). Helen Mirren handles the title role in this biopic about the crisis which confronted the British royal family when Queen Elizabeth II and company did not want to mourn publicly in the wake of the death of Princess Diana. With Michael Sheen as Tony Blair, James Cromwell as Prince Philip, Sylvia Syms as the Queen Mum.

Rocky Balboa (PG for salty language and boxing sequences). Sylvester Stallone wrote, directed and stars in the franchise's sixth and final installment where the now widowed and cash-strapped Italian Stallion comes out of retirement to enter the ring with the reigning heavyweight champ (Antonio Tarver).

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G). Tim Allen reprises his role as Scott Calvin, aka Saint Nick, now a newlywed with a pregnant wife (Elizabeth Mitchell). This adventure has Santa matching wits with his nemesis Jack Frost (Martin Short) who is trying to appropriate the Christmas holiday.

Sharbus (Unrated). John Cameron Mitchell directs this unexpurgated film exploring the sordid sexual proclivities of a set of hedonistic sensualists in an "anything goes" salon in New York City. Cast includes Sook-Yin Lee, Paul Dawson, and Lindsay Beamish.

Shut Up and Sing (Unrated). Dixie Chicks documentary takes a look at the fallout visited upon the popular country music group in the wake of their criticism of President Bush during a concert in England back in 2003.

Unaccompanied Minors (PG for crude humor and coarse language). Holiday comedy about the misadventures of children stranded by a snowstorm in a Chicago airport where they spend Christmas Eve without adult supervision except for the uptight passenger relations manager (Lewis Black) and his assistant (Wilmer Valderrama) who they promptly proceed to drive crazy.

Van Wilder 2: The Rise of Taj (R for nudity, profanity, and sexual content). This comedy features an expansion of co-star Kal Penn's supporting role as an enterprising East Indian college student now headed to Oxford to help the uptight Britons get the party started.

We Are Marshall (PG for a plane crash, mild epithets, and emotional material). Bittersweet, but inspirational sports drama about the aftermath of the airplane crash in which Marshall College's entire football team perished. Matthew McConaughey stars as the new coach hired by the university's president (David Strathairn) to rebuild the program from the ashes. With Anthony Mackie, Ian McShane, Matthew Fox and Kate Mara.

—Kam Williams

Top Video Rentals Week of December 13-19

Premier Video

1. *The Devil Wears Prada*
2. *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*
3. *Mrs. Palfrey of the Cloisters*
4. *World Trade Center*
5. *Talladega Nights*

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2. *Talladega Nights*
3. *The Barnyard*
4. *World Trade Center*
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Mon-Thurs 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 (PG-13)

LITTLE CHILDREN
Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Sun 1:30, 4:15
Mon-Thurs 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 (M)

VOLVER
Fri-Sat 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
Sun 2:10, 4:45
Mon-Thurs 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55 (M)

APOCALYPTO
Fri-Sat 1:30, 7:10, Sun 1:30
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Fri-Sat 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
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Mon-Thurs 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 (M)

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Volver (R) Fri., 5, 7:35, 10; Sat., 2, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Sun., 2, 4:45, 7:20; Mon.-Thurs., 2, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

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Casino Royale (R) Fri.-Sat., 4:15, 9:50; Sun., 4:15, Mon.-Thurs., 4:15, 9:50
Copying Beethoven (PG13) Fri.-Sat., 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40; Sun., 2:25, 4:50, Mon.-Thurs., 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
History Boys (R) Fri.-Sat., 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45; Sun., 1:45, 4:25; Mon.-Thurs., 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
Little Children (R) Fri.-Sat., 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45; Sun., 1:30, 4:15; Mon.-Thurs., 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45
The Queen (PG13) Fri.-Sat., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35; Sun., 2:20, 4:45; Mon.-Thurs., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
Volver (R) Fri.-Sat., 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55; Sun., 2:10, 4:45; Mon.-Thurs., 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55

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Mon-Thurs, December 25-28: 2:40, 6:00, 9:20

VOLVER (R)
1 21

Fri, December 22: 5:00, 7:35, 10:00
Sat, December 23: 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
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Koncz Breaks Out of Slump in a Big Way As Princeton Men's Hoops Whips Marshall

In the first seven games of the season, Kyle Koncz was the most consistent scoring threat for the Princeton University men's basketball team, averaging 12.4 points a contest.

But in games eight and nine, Koncz put up goose eggs, going a combined 0-for-6 from the field and not generating even one free throw attempt.

One might have thought that Koncz would have put in extra time on shooting drills in order to get back in rhythm for Princeton's game last Saturday against visiting Marshall.

Instead, Koncz took a different approach as he looked to break out of his slump. "We broke down film and I saw what I was doing wrong," said Koncz. "I wasn't cutting hard; that's what I concentrated on in practice all week; just cutting to the basket and getting open that way."

The 6'7, 200-pound junior forward didn't waste any time getting back in the scoring column Saturday as he buried a three-pointer 36 seconds into the game.

That bucket was just the beginning as Koncz went on to score a season-high 20

points to lead Princeton to a satisfying 61-45 win over the Thundering Herd before a crowd of 2,155 at Jadwin Gym.

In assessing his performance, Koncz said that making his first shot made a difference. "We scripted that first play and [Justin] Conway did a good job bringing it over and setting a screen," said Koncz, who went 5-of-10 from the field including 4-of-8 on three-point attempts. "I was open and I knocked it down; it felt good to make it."

Koncz didn't just contribute with his shooting, chipping in four rebounds, two assists, and a blocked shot.

In Koncz's view, focusing on the other aspects of the game helped him regain his offensive rhythm.

"Coach [Joe] Scott moved me to the bottom of the zone and I just felt more comfortable there," said Koncz.

"When I play better defense, it helps my offense. I felt like I rebounded the ball. I focus on those things and I'm not worried about making shots. It just happens in the flow of the offense."

Head coach Scott was happy to see Koncz get back into the flow. "Kyle was terrific," said Scott, whose team improved to 7-3 with the win over Marshall (3-7). "I told him before the game 'you work too hard, you care so much so when the games come just play hard and you know you'll do well,'" recalled Scott.

"He went out and played that way. He works hard; he's prepared himself. He cares about the team; the game is easy when you think like that. When he plays well, we play well."

The Tigers impressed their coach with the way they played in the win over Marshall. "We worked all week on our offense," explained Scott, whose club hit 20-of-42 shots for 47.6 percent with 15 assists.

"We worked all



IN THE GRASP: Princeton University senior center Justin Conway, left, controls a loose ball despite the efforts of Marshall's Chris Ross. Conway contributed seven points, five rebounds, four assists, and two steals as Princeton topped Marshall 61-45 last Saturday. The Tigers, now 7-3, are next in action when they play at South Carolina on December 20.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

week on executing our offense better and obviously we did. It was good to see what you emphasize at practice show up in the games. It's all we are looking for — transference from practice to the games. Once you start to see that from your team, you know you are making progress."

Scott is hoping that his team's performance last Saturday is a sign that it may be developing into a force in its home gym.

"Your players give you the home court advantage," said Scott, whose club is now 2-1 this season at Jadwin Gym and will next be in action when it plays at South Carolina on December 20.

"The fans aren't going to do it for us; the other team isn't going to do it for us. Today is a good step. I definitely liked our execution; we moved harder and we moved the ball better. I believe that's why the ball went in. When you move it like that it goes in, when you don't they don't go in."

A key factor in getting things moving for Princeton was the return of the gritty Conway into the starting lineup. The center has apparently recovered from an abdominal muscle tear that sidelined him for two games and limited his minutes in Princeton's recent loss to Rutgers.

"Obviously when Conway is out there he lends himself to our offense," explained Scott of Conway, who contributed seven

points, five rebounds, four assists, and two steals last Saturday.

"Our offense moves the ball better; the guys are moving harder and faster; stuff like that doesn't show up in the box score. We know as coaches that these are the things that help us. He might be 6'4 but he plays 6'8 and that's all that matters, how you play."

The unassuming Conway has no problem doing some of the dirty work. "I try to do whatever I can to help the team," said Conway. "I feel like there are little things here or there that make a difference in the end and that's all that matters. We have so many good players so I feel like no one person has to do everything, every person has to do what their strengths are and that will set us up to do well."

Koncz, for his part, draws strength from Conway's approach. "He's one of those guys who works so hard; it motivates you with how hard he works," added Koncz. "I think our team sees that he works hard in the post and that he runs hard to set screens and it makes us work that much harder. He's one of those guys who is always positive; it has a huge effect on the team."

And if Koncz can keep producing like he did against Marshall, that will be a huge positive for the Tigers. —Bill Alden



BACK IN RHYTHM: Princeton University junior forward Kyle Koncz head to the basket on his way to a season-high 20 points in Princeton's 61-45 win over visiting Marshall last Saturday. Koncz hit on four-of-eight three-pointers as he broke out of a slump which had seen him go scoreless in Princeton's previous two outings.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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Downs Relishing Her New Role as a Starter; Aims to Help PU Women's Hoops Get in Sync

With the Princeton University women's basketball trailing St. Francis (N.Y.) late in the first half last Saturday, Tiger forward Whitney Downs took matters into her hands.

The willowy 5'11 sophomore fired in a three-point shot to put Princeton ahead 22-21. Seconds later, she made a driving lay-up on a nice feed from Ali Prichard to give the Tigers a 24-21 halftime lead.

Late in the game, Downs was at it again as she hit a three to give Princeton a 49-48 lead with 2:05 left. After the Terriers made two free throws, Downs drove hard to the basket, hitting a twisting lay-up and drawing a foul. She converted the free throw to put the Tigers ahead 52-50.

In the end, Downs' heroics weren't enough as Princeton dropped a discouraging 54-53 decision to St. Francis,

falling to 4-7 on the season.

Afterward, Downs admitted that the Tigers misfired as they blew a 41-32 lead in allowing St. Francis (3-7) to snap a two-game losing streak.

"Down the stretch, we went away from what was getting us good looks," said Downs, who ended the evening with a career-high 17 points. "We started playing too fast and out of control and they started putting the ball into the hole."

The Tigers have been plagued by uneven play this season as they have failed to put together back-to-back wins. "We play up-tempo but sometimes we play out of control, there is a difference," explained Downs, a native of Franklin, Tenn., who scored 1,087 points in her high school career at Harpeth Hall, earning All-State recognition.

"We need to play at our tempo. When we play at our pace, we knock down shots. We need to find our perfect speed, then we'll be more efficient."

After starting just one game as a freshman, Downs has recently broken into the Tigers starting five and is

still working on getting up to speed in her new role.

"I've always been a player who has come off the bench," said Downs, who has made five straight starts and is now averaging 6.2 points a game.

"It's a different mentality to start; I'm trying to get used to bringing energy right from the opening tip. When you watch from the bench, you can kind of judge who is hot."

Downs is devoting a lot of her energy to driving to the hoop. "A lot of our offense is trying to get to the basket and create shots; that's probably the thing I've been focusing on the most," said Downs. "If they start playing off of that, then you have to knock down shots."

That aggressiveness and focus has helped Downs become a bigger contributor for the Tigers. "I think I'm getting mentally stronger in the college game," said Downs. "I'm finding my rhythm and what my teammates need me to do. Hopefully if I keep developing, I'll become consistent which is what the team really needs right now."

A subdued Princeton head coach Richard Barron is becoming increasingly frus-

trated by his team's failure to develop any consistency so far this season.

"I was very, very disappointed in the way we played," said Barron, whose team shot 31.7 percent from the field, committing 16 turnovers and getting outrebounded by a 44-39 margin.

"I was shocked at the lack of energy we played with tonight, our lack of focus, our lack of intensity. It is hard to know where to go after this one. We'll have to figure that out and regroup. We need to control the game and dictate play."

Downs, for her part, believes the team can use the current winter recess to regain its focus. "We'll be in the gym a little bit more; we won't have classes to worry about," said Downs, who will try to help Princeton get on the winning track when it plays at Duquesne on December 22.

"We need to get on the same page and get ready for the Ivies. We have to get ready for the next week of practice and work at playing at our speed."

—Bill Alden

Get the scoop
from
Town Topics



DOWN THE LANE: Princeton University sophomore forward Whitney Downs bursts past a St. Francis (N.Y.) defender last Saturday on her way to scoring a career-high 17 points. Downs' production, however, wasn't enough as Princeton dropped a 54-53 heartbreaker to the Terriers to fall to 4-7 on the season.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)



SLIPPING AWAY: Princeton University senior captain Casey Lockwood tries to snare a rebound last Saturday against visiting St. Francis. Lockwood and the Tigers squandered a 41-32 second half lead as they fell to the Terriers. Princeton, now 4-7, plays at Duquesne on December 22.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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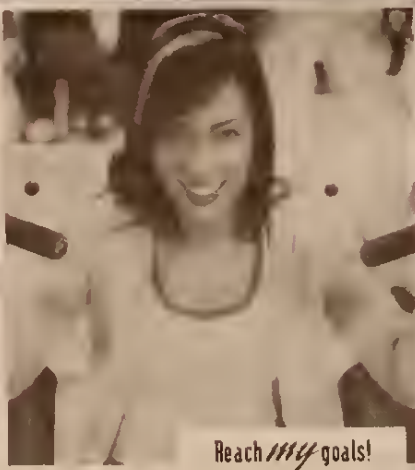
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PU Sports Roundup

Soccer Coach Shackford Wins Spirit of Game Award

Princeton University women's soccer head coach Julie Shackford was honored by the New Jersey chapter of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association with the chapter's Spirit of the Game Award for her great passion for the game and for displaying good sportsmanship towards players, coaches, officials and spectators.

"It is a great honor to be selected for this award by those who officiate our games," said Shackford. "College referees have a challenging and sometimes thankless job. It is gratifying to know that they recognize the respect I have for their position."

The award for Shackford capped a fall that saw her team produce a winning season for the 10th straight year. Since arriving at Princeton in 1995, Shackford has won 133 games, guided her team to six NCAA tournament appearances and an NCAA College Cup semifinal berth in 2004. She was named National Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America after the 2004 season.

Already having been the winningest coach in Princeton women's soccer history for several years, Shackford

PU Matheson, Numann Named All-Region

Princeton University women's soccer junior midfielder Diana Matheson and sophomore defender Taylor Numann were named last week by SoccerBuzz.com to its All-Mid-Atlantic Region teams.

Matheson was chosen to SoccerBuzz's first-team all-region along with 13 others from schools stretching from Pennsylvania to Virginia. The honor adds to Matheson's First-Team All-Ivy selection and her second-team all-region pick by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America after leading the Tigers with eight goals and five assists despite playing only 11 games this season. Her five missed games were due to her commitments with the Canadian national team, with which she spent much of November on the way to a 2007 Women's World Cup qualification spot.

With 20 goals and 19 assists for her career, Matheson stands one assist behind Kathleen Kobler '90 for the all-time career lead and is tied for fourth all-time in total points with 59. Matheson has been honored three times as a unanimous First-Team All-Ivy pick and was a 2004 NSCAA First-Team All-American as she helped the Tigers reach the NCAA College Cup semifinals that season.

Numann was selected to SoccerBuzz's third-team all-region for anchoring a defense that allowed just 17 goals this season, down from 21 in 2005. Numann was also a First-Team All-Ivy choice. The Tigers finished 8-7-1 this fall to secure the program's 10th straight winning season.



TOUR OF DUTY: Princeton University star defender Sarah Reinprecht, center, slots the ball between two opponents in action this past season. Last week, the sophomore was selected as one of 16 players to tour China with the USA Field Hockey Under-21 Team this spring. The team will compete against the Chinese junior team in March. A two-time All-Ivy selection, Reinprecht was the Ivy League Rookie of the Year as a freshman. This past season, she raised her offensive totals in addition to providing steady play in the backfield, scoring five goals and totaling 14 points in helping Princeton to the Ivy title. Reinprecht was named to USA Field Hockey's 2006-07 Women's U-21 team last July.

(Photo by Bill Allen/TNJ SportAction)

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IN A ZONE: Princeton High boys' basketball star Ross MacDonald, middle, cuts off a passing lane in action last winter. MacDonald christened PHS' new gym last Friday with an outstanding shooting effort as he fired in 22 points but it was not enough as the Little Tigers fell 58-47 to defending Group III state champion Hamilton.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

MacDonald's Shooting Lights Up New Gym But PHS Boys' Basketball Falls to Hamilton

There was a festive atmosphere Friday night as the Princeton High boys' basketball team played the first-ever game in the school's gleaming new gym.

The PHS coaches wore flowery Hawaiian shirts while a raucous crowd produced a constant din as the Little Tigers hosted defending Group III state champion Hamilton in the season opener for both teams.

A group of PHS guys graphically showed their spirit, showing up bare-chested with blue letters painted on their chests spelling out the message "Rain Man Rogers" in honor of sharpshooting junior guard Joe Rogers.

PHS senior forward Ross MacDonald, for his part, didn't waste any time displaying his comfort level with the Little Tigers' new digs, raining in one long jump shot after another.

Buoyed by its supportive crowd, PHS trailed Hamilton 25-19 at the half. After the Hornets stretched their lead to 40-29, early in the fourth quarter, Rogers and MacDonald sparked a PHS rally. The Little Tigers drew to within 46-40 but could get no closer as the Hornets pulled away for a 58-47 win.

In reflecting on opening night which saw him pour in a team-high 22 points, MacDonald said he and his teammates got a lift from the buzz in the team's new gym.

"With a new gym, we have new fans," said MacDonald. "Last year, we didn't have much of a fan base. It looks like there will be lots of people coming here; it gives us a lot of energy. I like this gym a lot better than the old one."

MacDonald liked the way PHS battled their highly regarded foes. "We played them well," said MacDonald. "We battled but we didn't really do what we had to do."

MacDonald's success this fall on the soccer field which saw him lead the PHS boys' team in scoring as it won a sectional title, gave him a lift coming into the basketball season.

"It gave me confidence; it kept me in shape," said MacDonald. "The first week of basketball I was a little rusty but after that I'm alright."

PHS head coach Dave

Kosa was alright with how his team fought in the Hamilton game.

"We did battle back; we did cut it down to six," recalled Kosa, who got 21 points from Rogers including 13 in the fourth quarter.

"They had a lot of seniors and we had two sophomore starters (Brian Dunlap and A.J. Dowers). We're going to get better; we're going to keep working hard."

The Little Tigers' youth hurt it down the stretch. "We just have to make smarter decisions when the game is on the line," said Kosa, whose team dropped to 0-2 as it fell at Shalick 71-50 last Saturday with Rogers scoring 18 and Dowers adding 16.

"We need to be more poised and under control. When you're playing a good team like Hamilton, you have to get better shots. They were able to get offensive rebounds when it counted. The two sophomores didn't have a good one today but I think we will be hearing something from them in the future."

Kosa is hoping that his

team will be able to hear plenty of cheers in its new building. "It's something we've been trying to build on; we're talking it up as a new era," said Kosa, whose club hosts Allentown on December 22.

"It was a shame it couldn't go our way in the first game in the new gym. It's a learning experience; we're a young team. Let's use this and appreciate the fact that the school spirit is starting to come on now; hopefully we can keep building it. We'd like to have this place packed like the other gyms in the county."

The tandem of MacDonald and Rogers should keep the PHS fans excited. "They work well together; they are our co-captains," said Kosa. "They are always together, talking off the court and doing things together. They have a chemistry."

MacDonald relishes his partnership with Rogers. "We have a good connection," asserted MacDonald. "We are friends on and off the court. We've played together for a while."

—Bill Alden



LEARNING CURVE: Princeton High boys' basketball head coach Dave Kosa gives instructions in a team huddle last season. Buoyed by a raucous crowd, PHS opened its new gym last Saturday with a solid effort but fell short in losing to Hamilton 58-47. A day later, the Little Tigers fell 71-50 at Shalick to drop to 0-2. PHS will look to get on the winning track when it hosts Allentown on December 22.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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PDS Girls' Hockey Off to Inconsistent Start, Needs to Develop Better Finishing Touch

The weaknesses and strengths of the Princeton Day School girls' hockey team were both on display last week when it hosted the Pingry School.

PDS' lack of depth on defense was exposed as Pingry jumped out to a 3-0 lead midway through the second period.

But showing its fight and skill, the Panthers battled back as Noni Ammidon scored late in the second period and Emily Cook found the back of the net early in the third period.

The Panthers put on plenty of pressure the rest of the way but could not cash in any of their opportunities. Pingry added an empty net goal late in the game to make the final score 4-2.

PDS head coach John Cook acknowledged that his team is a work in progress.

"We're real thin on defense; their stronger skaters were coming in and getting by our defenders in the first period," said Cook, whose team fell to Pingry last winter in the state Prep semis. "We played hard. We actually had some pretty good opportunities but we didn't finish them. We've got to put a little more oomph on our shots."

Cook is getting some oomph from his first line which features junior Cook, sophomore Ammidon, and freshman Dana Lerner.

"They are working well together," asserted Cook. "Emily is really skating really well. She and Noni are getting together. Dana is skating hard too. She is putting the effort in and she

is starting to pass the puck better."

PDS sophomore goalie Bryanna Mayes has been giving Cook a good effort. "She makes a lot of good saves; she is strong," asserted Cook of his netminder who has already recorded two shutouts this season. "We're not going to win in this league by scoring two goals a game."

Last weekend, the Panthers took their lumps as they competed in the Canterbury Tournament in New Milford, Conn., going 0-2 at the competition to move to 2-4 on the season.

While Cook recognized that his team was a bit over-matched, he feels his players will benefit from the experience on and off the ice.

"It's good for the kids to get experience," added Cook, whose roster includes six players who are in their first season of organized hockey. "It also helps develop team spirit. That's important with a lot of new girls."

Cook needs his younger players to mature quickly if the Panthers are going to emerge as a force this winter.

"Hopefully they will start skating hard like the older girls," said Cook, whose team will next be in action when it plays at Morristown-Beard on January 4.

"The younger kids need to understand that they need to play with a sense of urgency. They aren't experienced; they need to pick up their game. We've really got to finish because we are making the opportunities."

—Bill Alden



THREATENING POSITION: Princeton Day School forward Noni Ammidon races up the ice in action last winter. Playing on the team's first line this season, Ammidon has solidified her position as one of PDS' main scoring threats. The Panthers, now 2-4, will next be in action when they play at Morristown-Beard on January 4.



OPENING JITTERS: Princeton High basketball star Kelly Curtis looks for an opening in a game last winter. Curtis and her teammates got off to a rough start in the 2006-07 campaign last Friday as they fell 54-27 at Hamilton. The Little Tigers will next be in action when they play at Allentown on December 22.

(Photo by Bill Alden/NI SportAction)

PHS Girls' Hoops Relying on Veterans As It Works Newcomers Into the Mix

The Princeton High girls' basketball team has only four players back from last year's team and PHS head coach Nikki Inzano is relying heavily on her quartet of veterans to lead the way this winter.

"In our last few scrimmages the returning players have really stepped up," said Inzano, referring to senior captains Kelly Curtis and Stephanie Grubb and sophomores Rachel Basie and Casey Moran. "The experienced players are really helping the younger players."

Even though PHS fell 54-27 to Hamilton last Friday, those veterans were productive as Grubb scored eight points and Basie added five.

With the graduation of 1,000-point scorer Erin Cook, Inzano is depending on Curtis and Grubb, in particular, to put up some big numbers.

"I'm looking for Kelly and Stephanie to really step up," asserted Inzano, who guided the Little Tigers to a 10-15 mark last winter, the program's first 10-win season in recent memory.

"Kelly is going to do what she does. She's going to drive to the basket, hit some outside shots and play tough defense. Stephanie had 16 points in a scrimmage; last year she was scoring four or five points a game."

The new additions to the

Little Tigers include junior Kia Santoro, sophomore Melanie Nachankin, Keish Brown, and Molly Lyncé, together with freshmen Argela French, Casey Morris and Megan Reilly.

Inzano is going to give his new faces plenty of chance to shine. "I'm going to be looking to play just about everybody," said Inzano.

"Reilly is someone to look out for. Kia played well on JV last year. Molly stands out and Casey should be good."

With such a deep rotation, Inzano plans to stick to the style that helped PHS to its 10-win campaign last winter. "We will still play up tempo with strong defense," said Inzano, who is in her fourth season at the helm of the PHS program.

"The defense has been strong. We're looking to put pressure on the ball and throw different defenses at people. We need to work on offense and making shots."

Inzano knows her team will be a work in progress as her younger players adjust to playing at the varsity level.

"This year could be a rebuilding year," said Inzano, whose team plays at Allentown on December 22 and at Nottingham on January 5.

"December could be a little rough. I think the team will get better as the season goes on."

—Bill Alden

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With Tartacoff Operating at Full Speed, Hun Girls' Basketball Sails to 8-0 Start

Next year at this time, Ali Tartacoff will be playing for the Naval Academy women's basketball team as she takes her first steps toward her goal of becoming a doctor in the military.

This season, Tartacoff has been operating with surgical precision in the backcourt for the powerful Hun School girls' basketball team.

Last week, Tartacoff, who

has already committed to play at Navy next season, poured in a season-best 25 points as Hun dismantled Lawrenceville 96-32.

Tartacoff kept up her fine work this past weekend, helping Hun to the championship in the Blair Tournament. The Raiders opened play at the Blair event last Friday by rolling past Hill 75-30 with Emily Gratch

scoring 20 points and Karly Grace adding 17. On Sunday, Hun edged Worcester Academy 48-47 in the semis before dispatching Rutgers Prep 41-28 in the title game.

In reflecting on the win over Lawrenceville, Tartacoff said that the Raiders hit the court with something to prove.

"We had a tough shooting game last week against Penn Charter," said Tartacoff. "Yesterday in practice we shot for about 30 minutes straight without stopping, drill after drill. We really had to step it up and show everyone that we're a pretty good team in this conference."

The constant in Hun's 8-0 start this season has been the team's defensive intensity. "It's a lot of pride, everyone takes it personally if their person scores," said Tartacoff, who scored a total of 17 points at the Blair tourney. "It's a team thing; you don't want to let your team down. Everybody just hustles their hearts out."

The last two years, Hun has fought hard but has lost to powerful Peddie in the state Prep A title game. With star guard Grace having transferred to Hun from 10-time champion Peddie, Tartacoff hasn't wasted any time forming a formidable partnership with her former rival.

"We kind of got to know each other last year on the court," said Tartacoff, a key performer last winter for Hun as it went 20-7, los-

ing to Peddie in the regular season, Mid-Atlantic Prep League title game, and the Prep championship game.

"When I heard she was coming to Hun, I was really excited. She is a really great person and I respect her playing ability. It's great to have another shooter on the court; it helps get everybody else open."

Hun head coach Bill Holup likes the way Tartacoff and Grace have worked together so far this season. "They have a real good rapport with each other," said Holup. "That's something that's been fortunate for us."

Holup is also fortunate that Tartacoff gives the team a lot more than shooting. "I told her in the preseason that the Naval Academy coaches are going to be looking at how you distribute the ball; how you handle pressure; and whether you play hard-nose defense," recalled Holup. "She's been very good at those things and she's still a very good shooter."

The Hun players collectively have been responsive to Holup's coaching. "The girls are accepting what I tell them," said Holup. "They are about each other; it's such an important thing. We have very good chemistry."

That chemistry could be Hun's secret weapon as it looks to end Peddie's title streak. "We have had some good teams and I thought we have had some real good teams," said Holup, whose squad will next be in action this weekend when it plays in the Germantown Academy Tournament. "Last year I thought we could take Peddie and we could have. We had opportunities; hopefully



THAT'S A REACH: Hun School sophomore forward Cyndra Couch reaches for a loose ball in Hun's recent 58-34 win over Penn Charter. Last weekend, the Raiders won the Blair Academy tournament, topping Rutgers Prep 41-28 in the title game. Hun, now 8-0, will be looking for another title as it competes in the Germantown Academy tournament on December 22 and 23.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

it will work out this year."

Tartacoff, for her part, is looking to seize her opportunity at Navy. "I want to be a doctor in the military; I've always wanted to help out in that way," said Tartacoff.

"I went up to West Point and then I went to Annapolis. I fell in love with it down there; it's perfect for my career and my level of basketball."

In the meantime, she is focused on helping Hun raise the level of its play. "We have the quotes up on the wall in the locker room about winning championships," said Tartacoff.

"Everyone has a great feeling about this year. We all know we can do it; it's just a matter of hard work and working together."

—Bill Alden



SMOOTH SAILING: Hun School senior guard Ali Tartacoff looks for an opening in recent action. Tartacoff, who has committed to play at the Naval Academy next year, has given Hun scoring punch and leadership as the Raiders have gotten off to an 8-0 start this season.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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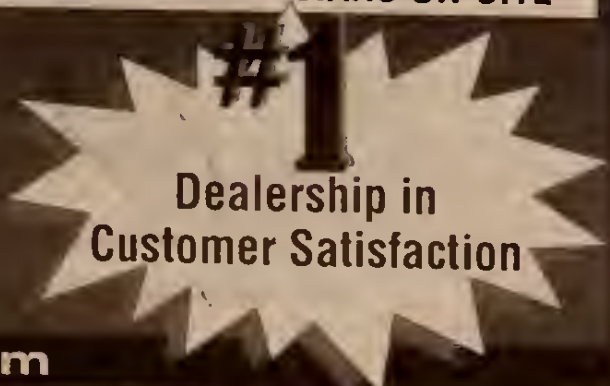
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POINT OF ENTRY: Hun School postgrad point guard Doug Davis flies to the basket in Hun's 59-45 win over Rutgers Prep last Saturday. Davis poured in a game-high 24 points to spark Hun to the victory. A day later, the Raiders fell 71-54 to American Christian in the Tip-Off Classic at South Orange to drop to 5-3.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

Hun Boys' Basketball Staying Cohesive As It Deals With Challenging Schedule

With its raucous student section rocking the gym, the Hun School boys' basketball team got off to a hot start last week as it welcomed St. Benedict's into its unfriendly confines.

Sparked by senior star Idris Hilliard, Hun broke out to an 11-4 lead and held a 14-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

But the St. Benedict's postgrad squad, which is one of the program's two teams along with a "national" team that is ranked No. 3 in the country, was too experienced to wilt under the pressure it faced. Turning up the defensive pressure, St. Benedict's forced Hun out of its rhythm and grabbed a 31-24 halftime lead.

The Gray Bees built that cushion into double-digits by the latter stages of the third quarter on the way to cruising to a 69-52 victory.

In reflecting on the setback, Hun head coach Jon Stone acknowledged that his team didn't take care of the ball the way it needed to against a veteran club like St. Benedict's.

"You don't face that kind of defense from every team we play against," said Stone, who got 26 points from senior star Hilliard in the loss. "We were turning the ball over so that they were getting lay-ups; it's hard to defend against lay-ups."

In Stone's view, Hun gained some valuable lessons from the experience. "I think you learn that it is a 32-minute game," added Stone. "You learn to face adversity and pressure and how to deal with it. We need to stay cohesive as a unit in games like this and work off each other."

The learning curve continued for Hun this past weekend. On Saturday, the Raiders cruised to a 59-45 win at Rutgers Prep as postgrad point guard Doug Davis poured in 24 points with Hilliard adding 12. A day later, however, Hun built a 32-17 third quarter lead over American Christian in the Tip-Off Classic at South Orange only to fall 71-54.

As Hun fights through its challenging schedule, it will be leaning on the broad shoulders of the 6'7 Hilliard, who has already committed to play his college ball for

Atlantic 10 power St. Joseph's.

"He is tremendous; he does so much for us," said Stone, who got 16 points from Hilliard and 15 from Davis in the loss Sunday which dropped the Raiders to 5-3 on the season. "We rely heavily on him; he has showed that he can play with anybody."

The Raiders will need S'11 Davis to handle the pressure in the backcourt. "I think he is continuing to learn and grow," asserted Stone of Davis, who led Prep Charter to the Pennsylvania Class AA title last season. "I think he has fit in well; he has a lot of ability and we're going to continue to see more from him."

Hun gave a glimpse of its ability earlier this month when it won the Peddie School Invitational Tournament, besting local rival Lawrenceville 59-43 in the championship game.

"Any time you win a tournament, you are happy," said Stone. "We're certainly very proud of that and happy to have won that. It's good for the program. Now that's in the past and we're going to continue to move forward."

Stone, for his part, is looking forward to guiding his team in the league and state Prep tournaments it will play in later in the season.

"I love this team," said Stone, whose club will next be in action when it hosts Germantown Academy on January 3. "They are a great group of kids; they are fun to coach. I think we have the ability to be a very good defensive team."

—Bitt Alden



STONE SECTION: Hun School boys' basketball head coach Jon Stone makes a point in a huddle during Hun's 59-45 win at Rutgers Prep last Saturday. The Raiders, now 5-3, will next be in action when they host Germantown Academy on January 3.

(Photo by Bill Allen/NJ SportAction)

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Local Sports

PHS Athletic Hall Of Fame Accepting Nominations

The Princeton High Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is currently accepting nominations for the induction of its third class.

Nomination forms can be obtained by going to the PHS website at www.prs.k12.nj.us and hitting the Athletics link and then clicking on the Hall of Fame category or by calling Kathy Herzog in the PHS athletics office at (609) 806-4290.

The nomination forms must be returned by January 31, 2007.

Dillon Youth Basketball December 16 Results

In action last Saturday in the 4th/5th grade boys' division of the Dillon Youth Basketball League, Mike Clancy scored six points and Harrison Dunne-Polite added five as the Sonics topped the Jazz. The Kings beat the Lakers 34-18 behind 12 points each from Paul Murray and Matt Vasseur. Sinan Ozbay dropped in six points and Louis Capon added four to help the Spurs defeat the Mavericks 18-6. The Trailblazers beat the Clippers 24-14, as Will Wright and Robert Mooney scored 10 points apiece. The Suns edged the Rockets 18-17 as Max Ronewald and Jack Dyeovich each scored six points. Colin Frawley had 10 points for the Rockets.

The boys' 6th/7th grade division saw Seton Hall top West Virginia 34-26 as Marshall Borden scored nine points with Andy Le and Sam Dercon adding eight apiece. Georgetown slid past Pittsburgh 34-29 behind 10 points from Lior Levy and eight from Mike Manley. Clay Censits paced Pittsburgh with 11 points. Villanova nipped Syracuse 20-18 as James Sanderson netted six points for the winners. Stephen Sippelle scored eight points and Oren Karsen added seven as St. John's beat Connecticut, 21-12. Tim Vasseur paced Connecticut with eight points. Notre Dame beat Rutgers 38-22 behind 18 points from Justice Healy.

In the boys' 8th/9th grade division, Princeton Amoco ran past Woodwinds 38-21 as Mike Olentine paced the winners with 14 points. Princeton Orthopaedics defeated Iano's Rosticaria 48-19 behind 23 points from Skye Ettin. Caliper Farms Nursery beat Princeton Pettoranello Foundation 29-23 behind six points from Alex Peters. Jake Golden paced Pettoranello with 13 points.

In games in the 4th/5th grade girls' division, Princeton Dental Group defeated McCaffrey's 24-16 as Gabriella Bloom scored 10 points to lead the way. Allison Hubert netted 10 points for McCaffrey's with Jasmine Horan adding six. Princeton Youth Sports defeated Larini's Sunoco behind 12 points from Elizabeth Jacobs. Leah Moran added 10 points in the win.

The 6th-9th grade girls' division saw American Sew/Vac ran past Franklin & Alison Orchestra 23-11. Kate Kerr scored a game-high 10 points for the winners with Susan Farrell chipping in six points. Katie Bechler scored 10 points and Kim Rogers added nine as Mack-Cali defeated GR Murray 22-15. Angela Gallagher led GR Murray with eight points.

Princeton Travel Basketball Recent Results

The Princeton Recreation Department's Under-12 boys' travel basketball team lost to Ewing, 49-26 in Central Jersey league play on Sunday. Marshall Borden scored eight points to lead Princeton with and Asaf Davidov adding seven.

Princeton's U-11 boys' squad moved to 2-1 with a 27-20 win over Upper Freehold/Allentown in Central Jersey League action. Matt Vasseur dropped in nine points to pace Princeton. Brock DeHaven and Colin Frawley chipped in six points apiece for Princeton.

The Princeton U-14 girls' team dropped a 39-30 decision to Central Bucks on Sunday in

Flemington League play. Molly Barber led Princeton with 10 points while Tara Thomas chipped in with eight. Princeton is now 1-2 on the season.

Princeton's U-12 girls' team earned their first win of the season with a 22-14 victory over North Brunswick in Central Jersey action. Kaitlyn Weeks scored 10 points, including two three-pointers. Weeks added five rebounds and three steals for the winners. Byrne Fahey had five points, five rebounds, and three steals for Princeton, which is now 1-1.

PU Women's Soccer Holding Winter Camps

The Princeton University women's soccer program and Tiger head coach Julie Shackford are hosting six indoor winter camps in January and February, open to girls in kindergarten through seventh grade.

Shackford and Princeton assistant coaches Scott Champ and Ron Celestin will serve as camp staff. The campers will have the opportunity to work with the Princeton staff on both offensive and defensive skills during the clinics to take place January 7,

14, 21, and 28 and February 4 and 18, all to take place at Dillon Gym, from 10:30 a.m. to noon on those dates.

Registration for each session is \$50 and all campers should bring a ball. To register, call the Princeton camps office at (609) 258-3369, e-mail camps@princeton.edu, or visit www.princeton.edu/camps.

Princeton Rec Department Offering Squash Clinic

The Princeton Recreation Department is offering a squash clinic for players of all skill levels beginning Sunday, January 14.

The program is open to youth and adult residents 10 years old and older. Beginners will be taught in a clinic-style format while more experienced players will compete in a round-robin tournament.

Each session will be held from 12:30-2 p.m. at Jadwin Gymnasium on the campus of Princeton University.

There are a limited number of spots available in this program. The clinic is open to Princeton residents and nonresidents that attend school in Princeton. For more

information, please call the Princeton Recreation Department at (609) 921-9480.

Princeton Little League Hosting Coaching Clinic

The Princeton Little League will be hosting coaching clinics to be conducted by Rider University varsity baseball coach Barry Davis.

The clinics are open to Princeton Little League coaches and interested league parents and no registration is required. The clinics will be held on January 10 at 7:30 pm and January 16 at 8 p.m. at the Princeton Township community room. For more information log onto www.princetonlittleleague.com.

League volunteers should bring a photo ID in order to complete the volunteer verification process that is a league requirement.



COURT VISION: Katie Bechler eyes the hoop in recent action in the 6th-9th grade girls' division of the Dillon Youth Basketball League. Last Saturday, Bechler scored 10 points to help Mack-Cali defeat GR Murray 22-15. More details on the December 16 Dillon results are included in the item elsewhere on this page.

(Photo by David Goldsm (P))



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Obituaries

Marvin Brown

Marvin Brown, 79, of Princeton, died December 13 at the Princeton Medical Center, surrounded by his family.

Born and raised in Princeton, he owned and operated the Princeton Clothing Company, a family business.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; two daughters, Cherylanne Brown and Lisa Carrier; a brother, Benjamin; and two grandsons.

Burial was in Princeton Cemetery.

Arrangements were by The Kimble Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Marianna Consoli

Marianna Consoli, 98, of Princeton, died December 14 at the University Medical Center at Princeton.

Born in Ischia, Italy, she emigrated to the United States in 1932 and was a Princeton resident for 74 years. Upon her arrival in the U.S. she became an employee of president and Mrs. Hibben of Princeton University.

She was a communicant of St. Paul's Church and a member of Lega Marconi at Dorothea's House.

The wife of the late Carlo Consoli, she is survived by a son, Peter, and daughter, Catherine Consoli, both of Princeton; a sister, Emma Cefaloni of Hobe Sound, Fla.; and a special friend, John Zuilo.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated December 19 at St. Paul's Church. Entombment followed in St. Mary's Mausoleum, Hamilton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 529, Princeton 08542.

Giovanni Mattera

Giovanni Mattera, 86, of Princeton, died December 13 at Princeton Care Center.

Born in Barano D'Ischia, Italy, he served six years in the Italian Merchant Marine during World War II. He came to the United States in 1947, settling in New York City. He moved to Princeton in 1950 and began work at the Princeton Inn as a chef. He retired in 1985 after 29 years with Princeton University in the Department of Building Services. During this time he also worked at the Institute for Advanced Study for 25 years.

He was a member of Roma Eterna.

Son of the late Joseph and Filomena Mattera, and brother of the late Vincenzo Mattera and Bridgetta DiMasi, he is survived by his wife of 56 years, Angelina; four sons, Joseph of Manalapan, John of Burlington, Anthony of Hamilton, and Mario of Lawrenceville; a daughter, Sylvana Acolia of Florence; a brother, Alfonso Mattera of Italy; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

The funeral was December 18 at The Mather-Hodge Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Paul's Church.

Burial was in Princeton Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society of New Jersey, Mercer County Chapter, 3076 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville 08648.

Helene Ruth Perkins

Helene Ruth Perkins, 84, of Needham, Mass., formerly of Princeton, died December 8 at the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association in Brookline, Mass.

Predeceased by her husband, Edwin Howard Perkins, and a son, David Perkins, she is survived by two daughters, Diane Perkins Johnson of Sudbury, Mass. and Pamela Jean Perkins Wayne of Argentina; a daughter-in-law, Suzette Perkins of Bath, Maine; and four grandchildren.

No funeral service is scheduled at this time.

Arrangements are by the Duckett-J.S. Waterman & Sons Home of Memorial Tribute, 656 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, Mass.

Princeton University Chapel

invites you to worship

Sunday, December 24th, 2006

11:00 AM

The Rev. Deborah K. Blanks

Associate Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel

Princeton University

Sermon: "A Mary Moment"

Sunday, December 24th, 2006

8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Sermon: "The Divine Pleasure"

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Breidenthal

Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel

Princeton University

and on

Monday, December 25th, 2005

11:00 AM

A Christmas Day of Holy Communion

Sermon "Irrevocable Word"

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Breidenthal

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SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

By the Rev. Peter K. Stimpson



The Rev. Peter K. Stimpson

QUESTION: *I hate Christmas. It's just pressure, pressure, pressure! I'm always exhausted when it's over, as if I've run through some sort of gauntlet. Am I weird? Is my complaint common? Can you help?*

ANSWER: Yes, your complaint is very common. But, the pressure cooker in which you find yourself is strangely created by you! You have unwittingly given others the power to determine your worth, instead of calmly deciding what

it is that you can and cannot do. You cannot please all the people all the time, no matter how much money you spend on gifts or how lavish a party you throw. So, pull the plug on the pressure by bravely deciding what you want to do vs. what you feel that you have to do.

Let's look at 4 areas of stress to make my point clear:

1. SHOPPING:

- Realize that there is no "perfect present," and that your goal is to demonstrate love, not to outdo previous years with oohs and ahs.

- Try not to overspend in an effort to overcompensate for too much quantity of time at work and too little quality time at home. Instead, reinvest yourself in your family.

- And, if you really want to go for the brass ring of mall maturity, be courteous to the discourteous, and try not to have a short temper while waiting in a long line.

2. FAMILY:

- Put the needs of your spouse and children before the pressures of family and friends. It's OK to tell your mother that you are celebrating Christmas in your own home, and to visit fewer relatives so as to do so out of love rather than duty.

- If you are short on money, then cut or eliminate your long list of people designated for Christmas cards, and consider giving one gift instead of many to your spouse and children.

- Therefore, a good rule of thumb to adopt is to consider doing less so as to enjoy the holidays more.

3. CHURCH: To take the stress out of Christmas, try putting Christ back into it. Instead of threatening your spouse and children with bodily harm if they do not accompany you to church, consider reminding them of the real meaning of Christmas. I am not talking about a stern and "boring" lecture that will turn everyone off, but rather a discussion about the meaning of love. How much God must love us to have allowed his Son to be born in a manger instead of a palace, wrapped in swaddling clothes instead of silk, living in a town so obscure that it is not even mentioned in the Old Testament, and then being willing to die for us on a cross. Therefore, we go to church not out of duty with a gun to our head, but out of love and a desire to rediscover the meaning of our lives.

4. TV SPECIALS: If you came from an abusive family, or if your parents or spouse have died, or if you have been through a divorce, the endless onslaught of maudlin TV specials, depicting happy "normal" families might make you think that your family is anything but normal. And yet, what we are shown is an ideal towards which we all strive, the attainment of which is never fully within our grasp. We should not be discouraged by this image, just patient and persistent in our journey towards it.

This Wellness column is funded through the generosity of a grant from the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trusts. If you would like Father Stimpson to answer a question of yours on family life, daily living or emotional health, you can write to him at: Trinity Counseling Service, 22 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Trinity Counseling Service provides clinical or pastoral counseling on a sliding fee scale for all who need help and support. Phone Trinity Counseling Service at 609-924-0060 to set an appointment.

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- Oneness of Religion.
- Oneness of Humankind.
- Development of spiritual qualities such as truthfulness, fairness and kindness are essential to our growth.
- Community life is necessary to support families and individuals.
- The foundation of society is built on strong and caring families.
- Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah.

The Baha'is of Lawrenceville, Princeton and Hamilton Township conduct classes each Sunday for children and adults and these are open to people of all ages and faiths.

For more info. about the Baha'i Faith, call Wendy Kvalheim at 609-683-8929 or go to the web at www.bahai.org.

Devotions open to all begin at 9:45 AM.

Sunday classes are 10:30 to Noon at the Lanning School, 1925 Pennington Rd., just south of the entrance to College of New Jersey. All are welcome. Please join us.

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Nativity Services

Sat. Dec. 23, 6:00pm Vespers

Sun. Dec. 24, 10:00am, Div. Liturgy • 5:30, Christmas Carols • 6:00, Matins

Mon. Dec. 25, 10:00am, Div. Liturgy

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Stony Brook Meetinghouse
Quaker & Mercer Roads

For information
call 924-5674
For further information
call 452-2824

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Youth Fellowship: Thursdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Bible Study:
Wed. 7-8 p.m. & Thurs. 12-1p.m.
Office: 609-924-0877

Kingston Presbyterian Church

4565 Route 27, Kingston
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(609) 921-8895
Child Care and Nursery

Sunday, December 24

Church School 9:30am • Worship 11:00am
Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00pm

Pastor John Heinsohn

www.kingstonpresbyterian.org

Korean Worship, 2:00 p.m. Sang Lee, Korean Pastor

Trinity Episcopal Church

Crescent Ave., Rocky Hill, N.J. • 921-8971 (Office)
Father Paul Rimassa, Vicar

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Services:

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. & 10 a.m.

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407 Nassau St. at Cedar Lane, Princeton • 924-3642

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Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes at 9:00 a.m.

December 24, 8PM Candlelight Communion
December 25, 10:30AM Chorale Communion

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

124 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ
Reverend M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children K-6th Grade

Dec. 24, 10AM Worship Service

Dec. 24, 7PM Christmas Eve Service - A service of Lessons and Carols

Dec. 29, 6:30PM Kwanzaa Celebration - Polluck Dinner

Nursery Provided • Ramp Entrance on Quarry Street
(A multi-ethnic congregation) 609-924-1666 • Fax 609-924-0365

St. Paul's Catholic Church

214 Nassau Street, Princeton Msgr. Walter Nolan, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 and 5:00 p.m.

Mass in Spanish: Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Sun, Dec 24

Children's Mass with Children's Choir at 4:00pm

Vigil Mass at 6:00pm • Spanish Mass at 7:30pm

Adult Choir Program at 11:30pm • Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday, December 25th

Masses at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30am; No Evening Mass

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Dec. 24 @ 10AM Service of Worship;

Child Care provided beginning 9:45AM

Dec. 24 @ 4PM Christmas Pageant;

Child Care provided beginning 3:45

Dec. 24 @ 7PM Sacrament of the Lord's Supper;

Child Care provided beginning 6:45

Dec. 24 @ 10PM Service of Lessons and Carols

Dec. 31 @ 10AM Service of Worship

Child Care provided beginning 9:45AM

Followed by an All Church Brunch in the Assembly Room

David A. Davis, Pastor
Lauren J. McFeaters, Associate Pastor
Marti Reed Hazeltine, Associate Pastor
Joyce MacKichan Walker, Director of Christian Education
Nancy Mikoski, Christian Education Consultant
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Sue Ellen Page, Director of Choirs for Children and Youth
Maureen Franzen, Church Administrator

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Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Fellowship at 11 a.m.

Education Hour at 11:15 a.m.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7:30PM

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Dec 24, 10am: A Family Christmas Eve (an all ages service)
Rev. Forrest Gilmore & Rev. Chris Reed

7:30pm: Contemplative Christmas Eve (an adult service)
Rev. Forrest Gilmore & Rev. Chris Reed

Dec. 31, 10am: Kwanzaa (an all ages service)
Guest Leader: Joan Waite

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December 10 • 17 —

Communion Services at 8, 9 & 11:15 am

Candlelit Communion service 12/17 at 7:30pm

Saturday, December 24 —

ADVENT IV Communion Services, 8 & 9am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

* 12noon Communion, carols & soloist

* 3pm Christmas Story for young children

* 5pm Pogoont & Communion for kids all ages

* 8pm Festival Communion, choirs, brass & timpani

* 11pm Festival Communion, choirs, brass & timpani

Christmas Day, December 25 —

* 10am Holy Communion w/ carols

Sunday, December 31 —

* 8 & 9am Holy Communion

* 11am Christmas Lessons and Carols with choirs, brass

& timpani, held in the Princeton University Chapel

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609-924-2277 trinityprinceton.org

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Holy Eucharist, 8am & 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:00pm Christmas Narrative with Live

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8:30pm Christmas Eve Prelude

9:00pm Festival Eucharist of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10am Eucharist

16 All Saints' Road, Princeton (609) 921-2420

allprinc@aol.com www.allsaints.org

(located north of the Princeton Shopping

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Princeton United Methodist Church

Cnr. Nassau St & Vandewater Ave
609-924-2613

Gregory B. Young, Senior Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE

9:30 & 11am Worship

9:30am Church School

6:00pm

Family Candlelight Service

8:00pm

Candlelight Service

Dec. 31 10:00am Worship

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Saturday services at 9:45 a.m.

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9:30am

11:00am

Sunday School

for all ages:

9:30 am

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December 24, 9:30AM Worship

December 24, 11:AM Worship

December 24, 6PM Family Candlelight Service

December 24, 11PM Candlelight Service with Communion



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WEST WINDSOR

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LAWRENCEVILLE

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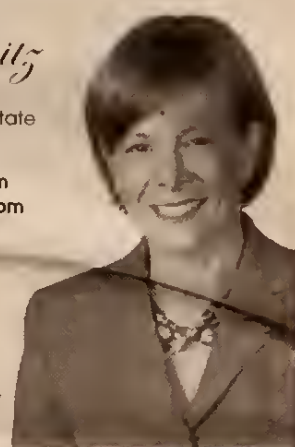
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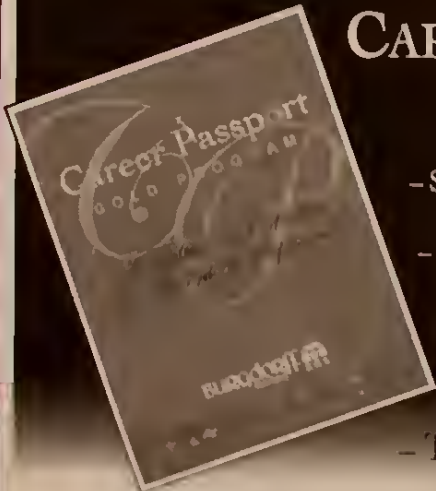
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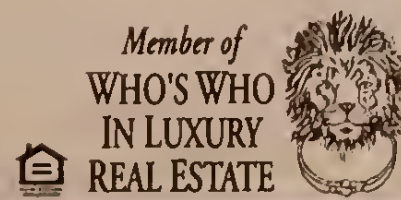
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47 • TOWN TOPICS, PRINCETON, N.J., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2006

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Today, they are the elders in our midst, frequently referred to as senior citizens, and living in a youth-oriented society. In our fast-paced, high tech environment, they

are not always given the attention and respect they deserve.

Because Americans are living longer and, in most cases, healthier lives than in the past, many older people remain in good health, continue to work, are involved in their community, have close relationships with family and friends, and lead active lives.

Others, however, are less fortunate, and may suffer from a variety of physical and mental ailments, ultimately needing to move to an assisted living facility, continuing care center, or nursing home. When spouses and friends have died, facing

the holidays can be a lonely time for many seniors. In addition, home-bound people may be on a fixed income, and have little left over for holiday decorations to add a festive touch to their home.

Reaching out to the elders among us is an important way to make the holidays meaningful — for them, but also for the one who gives, whether it is a donation of money, or time, or consideration.

Great Smiles

"I have several really great older woman friends who always give more to me than I could give to them," says a former Princeton resident.

Continued on next page



STEPPING OUT: Every Thursday, Elm Court residents receive transportation for shopping and doctors appointments, courtesy of Buckingham Place. Elm Court resident Jane Williams (second from the left) is shown with staffers Felix Rodriguez, Fran Maniscalco, and Andrea Webb.

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

"Visiting Belle in Princeton always raises my spirits. Belle is a common-sense woman who is deeply spiritual and full of grace. And spending time with Elaine, a Nebraska sculptor in her early nineties, involves a game or two of Scrabble. She's a formidable opponent, with a great vocabulary.

"With another friend, Eve, we talk politics; and as she is originally from what was formerly Czechoslovakia and lived through the evils of Hitler's Germany, what she remembers often sheds light on politics today. Faye was the principal of the elementary school which I attended. She is quiet, honest, bright, well-traveled, spiritual, and most enjoyable. These women all have words of wisdom that are not intrusive and a real sense of what is right and wrong in the world. They also have great smiles, and are thankful for what they have and my taking time to visit them. I truly enjoy hearing their stories and what made them the people they are. These visits enrich my life."

A good cook, this friend also enjoys sharing her dishes with others, including older friends. "When we have a Festival of Lessons and Carols at our church, it is followed by a reception afterward. I often make the Czech pastry koloche with a variety of fillings. Not too many people make this anymore, so it is a welcome addition to the other delicious cookies and cakes brought by ladies in our congregation. When I make koloche, I take some to the 87-year-old woman whose recipe I use. She has been paralyzed from the waist down for several years, and she and her 93-year-old husband still live on their farm. They don't complain, are happy to see me, and both seem to want to talk to the visitor at the same time when I get there. What great stories they have!"

Hearing stories from older people, whether grandpar-

ents or friends, can be especially enjoyable to children. A very active World War II veteran vividly recalls stories from his grandmother. "I especially remember her telling me about one Christmas day when she and some other girls walked across the Hudson River, which had been frozen solid. This was up in Hudson, New York, and she and her friends often skated on the river as well. I loved listening to her stories and having that connection with her and to an earlier time."

Such stories do provide continuity and a link between the generations. Imagining his grandmother as a young girl ice skating was probably hard for a little boy, but it does give a perspective to the passage of the years.

Many senior citizens very much enjoy sharing their stories and memories, especially during the holidays, which themselves are often so focused on memories. Even people who may be forgetful and in varying stages of cognitive difficulties often enjoy reminiscing, says Tish Zimmerman, activities director of the Adult Day Care Center at Buckingham Place.

Past Holidays

"We want to provide older people with opportunities to talk to each other, and they like talking about past holidays. It is our goal to help keep people functioning as long as possible in the community, and reminiscences can be part of that. Also, any mental activities, such as crossword puzzles or Sudoku number puzzles are helpful.

"The creative arts, including painting and drawing, are important too, so people can express themselves. We also have special crafts programs, and seniors can help make decorations and ornaments for our holiday parties. The most important thing is to go by what the person wants to do. Adjust the activity to the person's needs."

Residents at the assisted

living units at Buckingham Place are equally involved in a variety of activities, including a recent holiday party. "The staff goes to great lengths to make this a wonderful party," says Dean Vleides, managing director of Buckingham Place. "We have gifts for the residents, and together, the staff and the residents have created a family within a family here. Friendships are made among the residents. There is a lot of peer socialization."

"Helping people to remain active and involved, to the extent they can, is so important," points out Barbara Bristow, LCSW, co-owner of Senior Care Management, a private agency providing home care and geriatric care management services.

Special Recipes

"Our home health aides try to be aware of clients' feelings during the holidays, and often, people will want to recall how they used to celebrate and share some of their traditions. We will ask if they have special recipes they'd like to have, and the aide can help them prepare it. They may have decorations or ornaments that are important to them, and we can help set them up, and the same is true with songs or carols. We will even sing along!"

When going to older parents' home for the holidays, grown children sometimes notice changes, especially if it has been a while between visits, says Ms. Bristow. Parents may have less stamina, become more tired, perhaps are not keeping up with housekeeping and household responsibilities.

Continued on next page

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Entrée

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

If the changes seem severe, she advises calling the parents' doctor, or perhaps a professional geriatric care manager.

When parents visit adult children for the festivities, the children may have to adjust expectations, adds Ms. Bristow. "If you want to continue the tradition of trimming the tree together, for example, that's fine. Let the parents participate, but it's good to have these events at the time of day when the older people are at their best. Usually not late at night.

"I know of a case in which a mother-in-law had always

made a special dessert for the holidays, and because she was now suffering from dementia, the family assumed she couldn't do it, and her daughter-in-law made it instead. The mother-in-law was very hurt, and felt left out. The best thing is to let someone participate at whatever level they can, and drop any ideas of perfection. Even if the mother-in-law couldn't have made the dessert by herself, she could have helped. This can also be true of trimming the tree and having the older family members put on a special ornament, or wrap gifts, write cards, etc. Let them help when they can."

Finding the right gift for an older person is sometimes

difficult, again depending on their circumstances and condition, says Ms. Bristow. "Anything musical is usually very good. A tape or CD, even a record, if they still have a turntable. Videos and DVDs are popular too, and also family photo albums, and family calendars that people put together today."

Robes, slippers, lotions, soaps, and plants are appropriate if the person is less active. And another item Ms. Bristow recommends is a bird feeder. If they can't handle filling it themselves, the health aide can help out. And many people enjoy watching the birds.

Welcome Gift

Spending time with someone is often the most wel-

come gift. A friend who has an older neighbor living alone, makes sure to invite him for dinner during the holidays. "Sometimes just asking someone over for a home-cooked meal is the nicest thing you can do," she says. "Everybody appreciates it, and it doesn't matter what you serve. They enjoy the companionship and also love a meal they don't have to prepare, cook, and clean up after!"

A friend in New York reports spending time with a very, very senior citizen. "My husband and I visit a 99-year-old lady, who was the baby sitter for our children. We visit her throughout the year, and at Christmas time, we bring her flowers or fresh fruit. Now she cannot see well, still lives alone in her house, and her neighbor brings her the evening meal. What she most appreciates are the visits. One day, she said that even a phone call is a treat."

Thoughtfulness can be demonstrated in many ways. Another friend made a great effort to surprise an older neighbor, who was out attending a senior citizen function. "My husband and I went over to the house (she had given us the key), and we took in a Christmas tree, and decorated it with lights and some basic ornaments. We knew she might have some special ones of her own, which she would want to add herself. We also put some greens around and totally surprised her. It was one of the most enjoyable things we did for the holidays. She thought Santa had come!"

A family, whose grandmother had suddenly lost her eyesight, found ways to help her that had special meaning. "All of a sudden, things that were easy for Grandma Katherine became very difficult — sewing, reading, and writing, to name a few," explains her daughter-in-law. "Christmas time was always special to her and writing and sending Christmas cards was a yearly ritual that she enjoyed. Her son took over the task of buying the cards and writing each one with a personal message from 'Kitty'. The cards had to be 'the good kind', and although she couldn't see the picture or read the message, she knew by the feel that the chosen cards passed inspection.

"With utmost patience, my husband read each card to her, and the envelope and

Continued on next page

Buche de Noel

also known as a Yule log.

is a traditional French Christmas cake that is beautiful and fairly simple to make.

Try this easier, lighter version of the customary chocolate Yule log from The Old Farmer's Almanac.

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup water
1 tsp vanilla
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup cocoa
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
extra cocoa for dusting

Filling and frosting:

2 cups whipping cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Beat eggs on high speed until very thick and lemon-colored. (If eggs are not beaten enough, cake will be heavy and rubbery.) Gradually beat in sugar. On low speed, beat in water and vanilla. Add dry ingredients gradually, beating just until smooth.

Pour into a heavy jelly-roll (10x15-inch) pan lined with greased and floured foil. (Fit foil snugly into pan.) Bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 15 minutes. Immediately loosen cake from edges of pan and invert onto a clean towel that has been sprinkled with cocoa. Carefully peel foil from cake. Trim edges of cake if necessary. While cake is hot, roll both cake and towel, starting with the narrow end, and place on wire rack, seam side down.

Cool for at least 30 minutes.

Whip cream with vanilla and confectioners' sugar. Unroll cooled cake and remove towel. Spread half the filling over cake, being generous at edges. Roll up. Spread remaining whipped cream over the log and sprinkle with cocoa. Decorate with holly sprigs, if desired.

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DECK THE HALLS: This happy holiday setting is just one of the many visual delights at the DeVries Christmas Shoppe at 2442 Highway 27 in North Brunswick. An exceptional display of decorated artificial trees of all sizes, as well as wreaths and decorations of every kind greet visitors to the shop. Ornaments, ribbons, snowflake decorations (suspended from the ceiling), Christmas stockings, pillows, candles of every size and color, are all part of the holiday scene. Collectible Santas, angels, and nutcrackers, Byer's Carolers, and even holiday chocolate bars are included in the splendid display, where every detail has been given the greatest care and attention.

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

hand-written message was carefully inscribed. When the last card was written, Grandma pushed back her chair with an air of satisfaction, happy and content that the Christmas cards were finished for another year. Her pleasure and appreciation for help with the cards was a gift (to us) that has lingered through the years.

"Also, being in assisted living often resulted in her feeling confined and deprived of normal holiday festivities. To help alleviate that, we used to take her out on the town a few days before Christmas. With each of us firmly holding her under the arm, we strolled into shops that were familiar to her from days past. Even though she couldn't see, she was able to hear about the beautiful displays and touch some of the items. She 'looked' at books and ornaments, and smelled the fragrances of cologne and lotions. Walking around Palmer Square, she loved the sound of the brass ensemble playing familiar carols, and the scent of balsam and a far-off hearth fire in a fireplace.

Caroling is always a wel-

come tradition. People of every age appreciate it, and those who are no longer able to walk from house to house now enjoy listening and recalling their own experiences associated with it. A friend who lives in Michigan tells of caroling on snowy streets, with frosty breaths and tingling fingers.

"Through our church, we got a list of people who were home-bound, and needed some special cheer. As we sang, doors were opened, people stood and listened and smiled, appreciating the visit from the young people. And often cookies were offered to the singers before they moved on to the next home. The stops that were especially poignant were the ones where someone sat by an upstairs window, listening behind the closed glass, often wrapped in a blanket, perhaps thinking of previous times when he or she had walked with a group of carolers at Christmas time."

A former neighbor, now in New York City, also remembers caroling, in two very different places. One was when she was a little girl, staying overnight with her grandmother: "I grew up with carolers, usually orga-

Continued on next page



HAPPY HOLIDAYS: The team at Chelsea Crimpers (left to right) Armida Bella, owner Bob Lovuolo, April Crawford, and Mary Mennella, are ready to help you look your best for the holidays with special updo's, up-to-date styles, and hair evaluations. Known for expert color, cutting, and styling, Chelsea Crimpers offers a variety of gift certificate packages, including shampoos, styling aids, and conditioners, combined with services. Facial waxing and paraffin hand treatments are also available. And Chelsea Crimpers doesn't forget the guys — a series of products and services is available for them too. In addition, the salon features a selection of Pandora jewelry and handbags for holiday gift-giving.



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THE NATURAL WAY: A treasure trove of gift ideas is offered at The Whole Earth Center. Bill Moran, customer service manager, holds aromatherapy products in front of the store's display table, which also includes a gardener's gift basket, therapeutic neck pillows, and assorted Burt's Bees products, all great stocking stuffers. Especially known for foods that are organically grown, environmentally safe, and nutritionally sound, Whole Earth also offers a variety of personal care items. Beeswax candles, natural baby gifts, even pet toys and supplies are other popular choices. Special holiday tins can be filled with cookies, nuts (locally roasted), dried fruits, coffees, or beautifully-packaged teas. New artisan organic extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegars make a nice gift, and the cafe offers wonderful whole grain baked goods, fruit cakes, and special holiday spreads. Meats are available from a local farm, featuring grass-fed cattle.

Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

nized in groups by various churches. They came down our street in the early evening, when it was just getting dark, holding candles, which lit their faces. We would open the door to hear them and stand there until they had finished two or three carols.

"By this time, we were chilled to the bone, but not as cold as I was the night I went caroling in Brooklyn Heights with Harry Chapin and his musical family. They had been caroling in Brooklyn for years, and they always invited all their friends to join them. We went up and down unknown streets for what seemed like hours, with the family singing and playing different musical instruments. They sounded so fabulous that I didn't want to sing and spoil it.

"We were a large group, and some people looked at

us suspiciously, until they heard the songs and the shouts of 'Merry Christmas! Come join us!' from Harry. Few did, but they all smiled, and many gave us a big round of applause. It took hours for my feet to thaw out at Harry's after-caroling party, but it was one of the warmest memories I have of the holiday season — except for the carolers in front of our house in Illinois when I was a little girl, hanging onto my grandmother's hand."

Many children have special relationships with their grandparents, which continue through the years. A friend tells of her daughter's unique act of Christmas kindness some years ago.

"My mother was in Merwick during the holidays, and my daughter, Melissa, then in college, came in to see her every day. Melissa always loved Christmas, as did my Mom, and she was upset that the room in Merwick was not decorated. So,

she went home, got ornaments and lights, and then got a small tree. She took everything to my mother's room and decorated it from top to bottom, saying, 'My grandmother cannot have Christmas without lights and decorations!' So, my mother was totally decorated! And it was very festive. What Melissa had done meant a lot to her."

Another friend recalls, as a young girl and member of the youth organization at her synagogue, going with a group to nursing homes. "We brought small gifts to the people, and also sang. Then we would spend time visiting with them. Older people especially enjoy being with children."

That is most often the case, although occasionally some people don't always welcome visitors, even kids. You never know what can happen, though, as a friend in New York found out. And

Continued on next page

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

even those with Scrooge-like tendencies have been known to mellow.

A big surprise took place at an assisted living facility in New York, reports a relative of a resident. "Jerry's father-in-law, the 'real' Scrooge, complained loudly about how unfriendly everyone was. Tired of hearing this day after day, I took a ton of Christmas cards to the home, with his name and room number signed inside, and stuffed everyone's mail box, staff included. Of course, all unknown to

him. He was amazed at the friendly people who all of a sudden appeared, wishing him a Merry Christmas. Finally, he figured it out, and said he can't get rid of two 'old goats' who are always hanging out at his door. Nonetheless, everyone was just a little bit happier and his complaining stopped — at least for a while."

Musical Instrument

Another story is equally surprising.

"My mother-in-law was in a nursing home, and due to having had a stroke and then breaking her hip, she was confined to a wheel chair,"

says a former Princeton neighbor. "Each weekend, our children would come with me and my husband, Hal, to visit her. Since the kids were musicians, occasionally each one would bring a musical instrument. Karen played the flute, Will wailed on the sax, and Kristy blew her trumpet. One Christmas, we headed over, and with the permission of the social director, we all donned Santa hats, and the children performed Christmas carols for the more active residents in the common room. I played tunes on the

Continued on next page

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

piano, and Hal turned the music pages. There were people in wheelchairs, people with canes, people in reclining chairs. (I do have to say that the children were heavily rewarded by Hal and me for giving the concert!)

"The social director had warned us that some of

the residents might make remarks, complain about the 'noise,' etc. She pointed out one very grumpy-looking elderly woman, and told us that Mary never smiled, and would probably make some comments about 'young whippersnappers' or worse!

"When the children began to play, Mary got out of her chair, and came up to the

piano. 'Mind if I sing along with you?' she said. 'We'd love to have you,' we replied with fear and trepidation. And Mary sang along in an incredibly beautiful soprano voice. Her eyes twinkled, and she smiled at the end of each rendition.

"As we played our repertoire — 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' to 'O Holy Night' — a few other resi-

dents joined in. One white-haired gentleman asked Kristy if he could borrow her trumpet for a few minutes; next thing we knew, he was presenting a wonderful jazz version of 'Winter Wonderland'! A few residents got up and danced!

"One very old lady in the audience said — between songs — 'Now I know what it will be like when I get to

heaven and hear the angels play their music. And it won't be half bad!'"

Music can be very therapeutic, points out Tish Zimmerman of Buckingham Place. "It is one of the most bonding activities. Nearly everyone remembers special Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs, and beyond that, they all love the music from the Big Band era of World War II."

There are many ways to help people find enjoyment, often occurring in the most unexpected ways. Princeton resident Pat Callahan tells of a special event at Hamilton Continuing Care Center in Hamilton, where her mother is a resident in the Alzheimer's unit. "For the past several years, every December, the ladies who care for residents in the Alzheimer's unit, known as 'Peachtree Lane', have hosted a 'Miss Peachtree Lane' pageant. Nurses, nursing assistants, and recreational therapists arrive early to help dress, style hair, and apply make-up to the elderly residents, sometimes bringing clothing and accessories from home to ensure that everyone looks their prettiest.

"As family members look on and applaud, each lady is escorted or wheeled in while a staff member emcees the

event, giving a brief biography of each person. Despite their cognitive difficulties, most of the residents beam at the attention, as do their relatives. The event is followed by potluck refreshments brought in by the staff and family members."

Another friend decided to add a twist to the annual cookie exchange party. As she explains, "Each person bakes her/his favorite cookie or similar treat and wraps them up (maybe five per package) and brings them to the party. There are also extras to taste. This way, each person who attends gets to sample cookies, sip beverages (champagne is nice!) and take many home. I decided to ask each baker — let's say there are 10 guests — to prepare a few extra packages, and then I deliver the cookies to a few neighbors who are elderly or house-bound. The cookie treats are accompanied by a greeting card, which all the bakers have signed. Last year, we included a bottle of sparkling cider to go with the cookies."

A friend in New York state volunteers at a senior center, and becomes especially busy during the holidays. "My daughter and I have served dinner there, and

Continued on next page

Children's Books for Holiday Giving

Glen Echo Bookstore

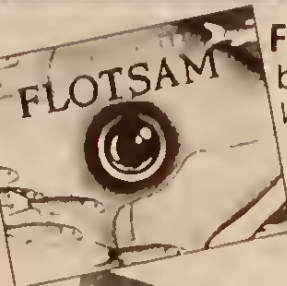
Recommended by RoseMary Foglesong



Probuditi!

by Chris Van Allsburg

Another engaging and beautifully illustrated adventure from the author of *The Polar Express*. Two friends try their hypnotizing skills on a little sister in this masterful tale about getting even.



Flotsam

by David Wiesner

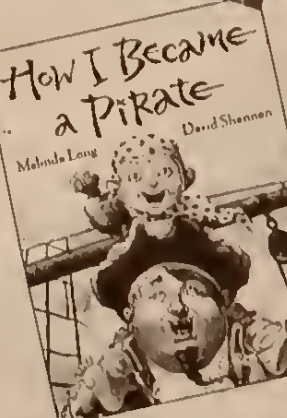
Wiesner takes his readers on a mesmerizing trip through a fantastical ocean world via an old underwater camera that a boy finds washed up on the Jersey shore. The story is a mind bending mix of realism, imagination, and humor.



Pick Me Up Put Me Down

by David Roberts and Jeremy Leslie

A zingy, hip compendium of such fascinating info-bytes such as a brief history of communication from pigeons, how are smelly feet connected to nuclear weapons, and why is 10 to the power of 100 called a googol. Covers subjects diverse as globalization, the entertainment industry, and world religions. An addicting book.



How I Became a Pirate

by Melinda Long and illustrated by David Shannon

Join Jeremy Jacob as he soon learns the finer points of being a pirate. Award winning illustrator David Shannon teams up with teacher Melinda Long to tell us a funny pirate adventure!



Mouse Cookies & More

by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Felicia Bond

Join Mouse, Moose and Pig from the popular "If you give" series as they bring their recipes, songs and activities to life in this family treasury. Children will enjoy the wonderful CD of songs included with the book.



Magic Tree House #36: Blizzard of the Blue Moon

by Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and Annie are off on another exciting Merlin Mission. This time, Merlin has sent them to rescue a beautiful magical creature — a unicorn. But when they land in New York City during the great Depression of the 1930's, Jack and Annie are confused. Mary Pope Osborne is the author of all the Magic Tree House books and numerous novels, picture books, and nonfiction titles.

Who we are:

Small Dog Rescue, Inc.

is a sanctuary for small dogs who have lost their homes for various reasons. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are fully tax deductible. We are located in the countryside near Griggstown. The dogs are housed in a large, converted barn, open and loose in large rooms, with heating and air conditioning. They have about four fenced-in acres to romp around in. Many visitors have said it is the only facility they have seen where the dogs are truly happy.

The list of things we always need:

- dog beds & pads
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 - bedspreads, sheets, blankets, area rugs
 - sweaters & jerseys, and other clothing discards.
 - towels, large and small, but we've not yet been able to teach the dogs to use washcloths..
 - toys and dog biscuits, except we don't use rawhide chews.
 - And, of course, money...we always need money.
- All these are very helpful to the dogs, the dogs love them and have a great time when a new box of toys arrives, but our vets always seem to have a little problem in accepting these things in lieu of money.
- We can use volunteers, both for grooming, or for office work, for filing, and/or with computer skills. At any one time there are always a dozen dogs who need grooming, and there always seems to be about eight hours of filing and/or data entry required to keep up the dog records and veterinary treatment.
 - Food donations are also welcome - though we respectfully request that the food items be free of food coloring that can be harmful to the dogs.

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Helping Seniors

Continued from preceding page

the people love seeing the elementary school children. The kids really rise to the occasion and do a great job serving them. We also make seasonal crafts to take when we go.

"In addition, several times a year, including at Christmas, we make crafts to give to Meals on Wheels for use as tray favors. The people who run Meals on Wheels are very appreciative when we do that because they say the clients don't get many visitors, and these kinds of things truly brighten up their day."

The American Red Cross operates a Meals on Wheels program in our area, and Buckingham Place has recently begun preparing meals for it, both for the Hightstown and Princeton routes. In addition, Buckingham Place provides transportation once a week for Elm Court residents in

Princeton, taking them to various shopping destinations, including McCaffrey's and the Princeton Shopping Center.

Buckingham Place also provided transportation for people to attend the holiday party at the Princeton Senior Resource Center on December 13, says PSRC executive director Susan Hoskins, LCSW. She is very pleased to have this help for party-goers, many of whom had no other way to attend.

"I also know that some of the people who came to the party did not have another holiday event. Our party is a most wonderful snapshot of the senior community, all across the ethnic, economic, and education spectrum."

The mission of the Princeton Senior Resource Center is "to offer affordable opportunities for support and engagement to older adults, their families, and caregivers. Programs, services and volunteer activities are de-

signed to empower individuals in the Princeton area to age in place with dignity."

"We were given the Princeton Human Service Award in recognition of our service to seniors and our effort to be inclusive," reports Ms. Hoskins. "Our members are anywhere from 60 to over 100, with the majority over 70. They are generally in good health, but it can vary. They have different levels of mobility, balance, and fitness. It's not so much about age, as attitude!"

"There are three generations of senior citizens," she continues. "Go-Go, Slow-Go, and No-Go, and we serve all three of them. The Go-Go group will attend aerobic exercises, take trips, and attend Evergreen Forum. Slow-Go attends yoga, strength training, and poetry reading. No-Go people don't get out, and we go to them. Some people are lonely during the holidays, and we especially look out for them. We make sure that a person without family will get a gift and a visit."

Another project for the holidays is the popular "Dress A Bear" program, she adds. "The Salvation Army gives us teddy bears, and we give them to seniors and friends of the organization who dress the bears in outfits they make or pro-

vide. We collect them and give them to the Princeton area nursery schools. We have over 100 bears in a variety of colorful outfits, and Santa gives them out to the kids."

A favorite program for the PSRC members is a tour of the annual Festival of Trees at Morven, featuring dozens of decorated trees, and a special 3-story, 20-room doll house, which is a replica of the historic Reading-Large House in Flemington.

Ms. Hoskins says that PSRC members have again been able to participate in the Christmas Calls program, sponsored by Merrill Lynch. The company welcomes seniors to its offices, where they have free use of the firm's telephones to call anywhere in the world and talk for an hour. "We provide a bus for the people to get to Merrill Lynch, and it is really a wonderful program."

"We also appreciate the gifts that are donated by the Dorothea House, which we distribute to low income seniors, and Princeton University gives us their table decorations and poinsettias after the students have gone home for the holidays."

"One of the things I want to emphasize is that we all work together as a team at PSRC — staff, volunteers, and members. There is al-

ways something someone can give. People, even if they have physical limitations, can still be engaged and participate — and they want to. Part of the joy of the holidays is thinking about what you can give."

So, be a Santa to a senior! It will be a gift to you as well as to them. As a long-time

friend, who knows a lot about giving, puts it: "Bringing holiday cheer takes a bit of time, but it's the most rewarding of giving opportunities, especially to seniors. Giving time, spending time with someone older and wiser than I am raises me up and makes me a better person." —Jean Stratton



NEW LOOK: Katie Hearn, spa director and make-up artist at Metropolis Spa Salon, is shown by a display of the spa's new skin and body care products, Comfort Zone. A full-service hair salon and spa, Metropolis offers a wonderful variety of gift packages, guaranteed to pamper and please a special person on your list. Facials, massages, body treatments, manicures, and pedicures, can be combined with hair cuts or color, or selected as a single service gift certificate. Packages include combinations, such as "The Essentials", "Ultimate Day of Rejuvenation", and "Gentleman's Choice", among others. Many offer lunch as well. Special up-do's are popular for holiday parties, and make-up applications and instruction are also available.



MEALS ON WHEELS: Since December 1st, Buckingham Place, an assisted living and adult day center, has been preparing meals at their facility for the Princeton Meals on Wheels program. Betsy Cekic, dietary aide and Wilson Reynoso, director of dining services at Buckingham Place are shown preparing meals which will be delivered to people in need in Princeton and Hightstown.

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Parents and Grandparents Go All Out To Make Baby's First Christmas a Big Hit

First Christmas tree, first presents, first Christmas dinner with family — the little tyke will certainly not remember, but with the aid of today's electronic wizardry, camcorders, videos, and such, as well as low tech photo albums, he or she will be able to celebrate the big day over and over again.

Parents and grandparents outdo themselves to commemorate the occasion. Special ornaments, cloth-

ing, and gifts are abundant; and the added excitement of having a baby to include in the festivities runs high. It can be action-packed. Cameras flashing, music playing, guests laughing, dogs barking, paper tearing, as presents are opened.

Some babies can be put off by all the hoopla. A friend who experienced three babies' first Christmases, describes one of the scenes: "Many first Christ-

mases turn out to be chaos. Baby is afraid of Santa, baby shrieks at reindeer, baby is scared by the rattling of gift paper, baby crawls away when she/he sees the tree (or tries to eat the needles or pull it down — we always wired our Christmas trees to the wall!)

"Relatives often disrupt baby's first Christmas, as happened with our second child. There is always an aunt who runs full-speed towards the baby as soon as the door is opened to let her in; she then grabs the baby, picks her up, and dances

around with her. The baby then screams every time that aunt enters the room, which doesn't make for peace on earth! It is best to warn relatives and friends to 'enter gently' and, as with a cat, allow the baby to come to them."

By the time the third baby came along, my friend knew what to expect, and even practiced a dry run, so to speak. "Introducing the baby to some of the Christmas 'trappings' is a good idea. One year, I gave our baby a 'Thanksgiving present' to open — dress rehearsal for

Christmas. She tore off the wrappings with style! This way, she was ready for unwrapping her gifts on her first Christmas. Of course, you never really know what will work on the actual day. Also, keep in mind that many times, babies like to play with the colorful wrappings more than the toy itself."

Baby's first Christmas ornament is a tradition many families honor, and a new ornament with the child's name can be added each year. There are commercially-prepared "Baby's First

Christmas" ornaments, but one family I know had each older sibling make an ornament with the baby's name and date. Some were quite primitive, but they are often the most memorable.

Another friend, who celebrates Christmas with fervor, always got a new ornament for each child every Christmas, and she has advice for young parents just getting started with this tradition. "One thing I recommend is to buy an extra ornament — for yourself. This way you will have something left to put on the tree after the kids grow up, leave, and take their ornaments with them!"

She always enjoyed having the baby of the moment wear a special outfit on the big day. "I got a little red Santa suit, and sometimes a little red plaid dress, and there are special holiday bibs, decorated with 'Santa's Helper' or 'Santa's Elf', which are fun. I also found Christmas pajamas for them to wear on Christmas Eve."

Baby's first Christmas stocking is another important item. The mother of a daughter born December 3 recalls an overflow, however. "Many of our friends had the same idea the year Karen was born. That Christmas, she received seven Christmas stockings — all homemade! Each had her name on it. One had a Santa with an angora beard, another was quilted, one was needlepoint. A few years later, Will received some stockings which matched Karen's. By the time Kristy arrived, no one thought about stockings as a gift, so we turned one of Karen's around, and wrote Kristy's name on the top! This became a family joke — one year, she bought herself a 'For Your Dog' stocking. Finally, a few years ago, her boyfriend's mother knitted her a beautiful stocking — her very own with her name on it! More gullt."

No Bounds

The length to which parents and grandparents will go to celebrate the first Christmas knows no bounds, and naturally retailers rise to the occasion. Baby's first Christmas fleece blanket, baby's first Christmas music box lullabies, baby's "first steps" Christmas ornament (little pairs of Lenox baby shoes), baby's first silver cup ornament, and baby's first Winnie the Pooh snow globe (with replicas of Pooh and Piglet) are just some items available.

In addition, a suggested activity, submitted by the British Broadcasting Company's, On Parenting division, is to "carefully coat your baby's hands and feet in red or green paint (there is no information on how the baby will respond to this!), then 'print' that onto good quality card or light-colored fabric. Wait until dry, then hang the prints on the wall alongside Christmas decorations. Seeing baby's first hand- and footprints will remind you of the importance of the occasion. You can also bring the prints out each year and look back on how much your baby has grown."

How this will translate in the U.S. isn't known, but chances are it will find an audience.

Continued on next page

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Baby's First Christmas

Continued from preceding page

Here is a sampling of other advice from those who have experienced the occasion.

- Definitely take steps to child-proof your tree and decorations.
- Take lots of pictures.
- Start new family traditions that include the baby. For instance, sing a special carol to baby that you will continue to sing every year.
- Create opportunities for older children to help new brother or sister during Christmas celebration, such as opening the infant's gifts or reading a Christmas story to baby.

- Many parents include a picture of the new baby in their Christmas card to introduce their newest family member to friends.
- If babies become overwhelmed by the constant activity and need some down time, take the child into another room for a more soothing situation.

Wanting to make the day as special as possible is understandable, and parents enjoy the opportunity to experience the joy of the season through the eyes of an infant. Remember to continue the old traditions along with the new to give yourself and the family (including the baby) a sense of continuity that will be preserved through the years.

—Jean Stratton



HAPPY FEET: The array of fun fashionable footwear, including boots and shoes, are part of an appealing selection for children, from infants to size 6, available at Tippy Toes, the popular new children's shoe and clothing store. Also shown is an attractive mural, featuring a peaceful rural scene with farm animals. The store carries a large selection of quality shoes and clothing, as well as colorful jewelry and toys. Currently, a "50-50" sale offers "Buy One (shoes or clothing), get the second at half-price". "It is our way of giving back to the community, and we want to wish everyone happy holidays," says owner John Chung. Service is especially important at Tippy Toes, where fitting the shoe properly is a priority.

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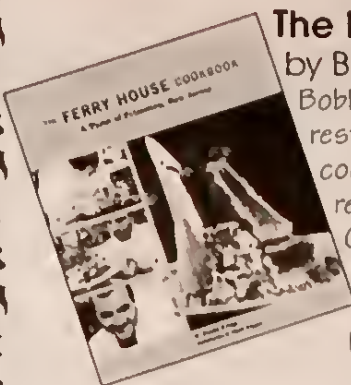
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Holiday Book Recommendations

Barnes & Noble Princeton

Recommended by Nancy Nicholson



The Ferry House Cookbook

by Bobby Trigg

Bobby Trigg, the acclaimed chef-owner of The Ferry House restaurant and the Peacock Inn, has released his fabulous new cookbook just in time for holiday entertaining. Now you can recreate Bobby's signature recipes at home. The Ferry House Cookbook shows why Princeton is a culinary destination for travelers from across the country as well as local patrons. Autographed copies are available at Barnes & Noble Princeton.



Best of the Best

by the Editors of Food and Wine

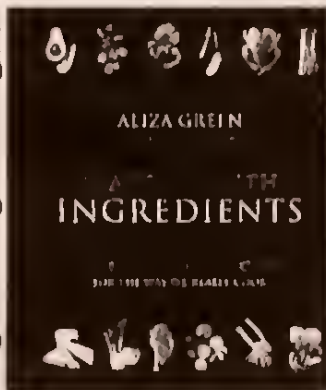
If you're only going to buy one cook book, this is it! The editors at Food & Wine started with 250 cookbooks published last year from which they selected 25 titles. The best recipes from those particular cookbooks were chosen for Best of the Best. Almost one million subscribers heartily agree: Food & Wine is the unrivaled leader in the field. It comes to more than 100 fully kitchen-tested dishes in all, with some previously unpublished recipes. Each page will tantalize you merely from the enticing photos and descriptions.



The Bon Appétit Cookbook

Edited by Barbara Fairchild

For those of us who are truly passionate about cooking, the Bon Appétit Cookbook is a reference no serious foodie can pass up. With its tempting array of recipes and step-by-step instructions, this monthly guide to food and entertaining has been a staple in American kitchens for nearly 50 years. Now longtime editor-in-chief Barbara Fairchild comprises a wonderful "best of" collection featuring 1,289 favorite recipes. Buy the book and receive a one-year subscription to the magazine.



Starting with Ingredients

by Aliza Green

Instead of thinking of whole recipes, Aliza Green encourages us to think of individual ingredients. In this breakthrough 1,024-page book, she devotes each chapter to a single ingredient, using its flavor possibilities as a springboard for a discussion of cooking methods and food combinations. The revolutionary approach of Starting with Ingredients will transform the way we shop, prepare, cook, and even think about food. The accompanying recipes in Chef Aliza Green's culinary tour de force demonstrate the broad range of possibilities for each ingredient, utilizing a variety of cooking methods, flavors, and ethnic inspirations.



Barefoot Contessa at Home: Everyday Recipes You'll Make Over and Over Again

by Ina Garten

The fifth Barefoot Contessa cookbook is Ina Garten's most intimate yet. Just as she does on her Food Network show, Garten here invites you into her East Hampton home for fabulous food and her proven secrets for successful cooking and entertaining. The recipes offer many creative, easy-to-execute variations on familiar dishes — and Quentin Bacon's photographs are stunning.



Windows on the World: Complete Wine Course 2007 Edition

by Kevin Zraly

The Windows on the World Complete Wine Course is simply the bestselling wine book in the United States — it's a classic. And this new edition contains an additional 16 pages. This elegant and beautifully designed book takes the mystery out of wine, so have a glass of your favorite merlot, and enjoy.

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Second Seating Party

7:00-8:00 Cocktail Party

with 1 hour open bar and hors d'oeuvres
Chef's choice of assorted specialties

Soup or Salad Course (choose from three)

Pasta Course (choose from three)

Entrée (choose from four)

Dessert

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